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Author HONDA Keiko

Scanned by Akanee
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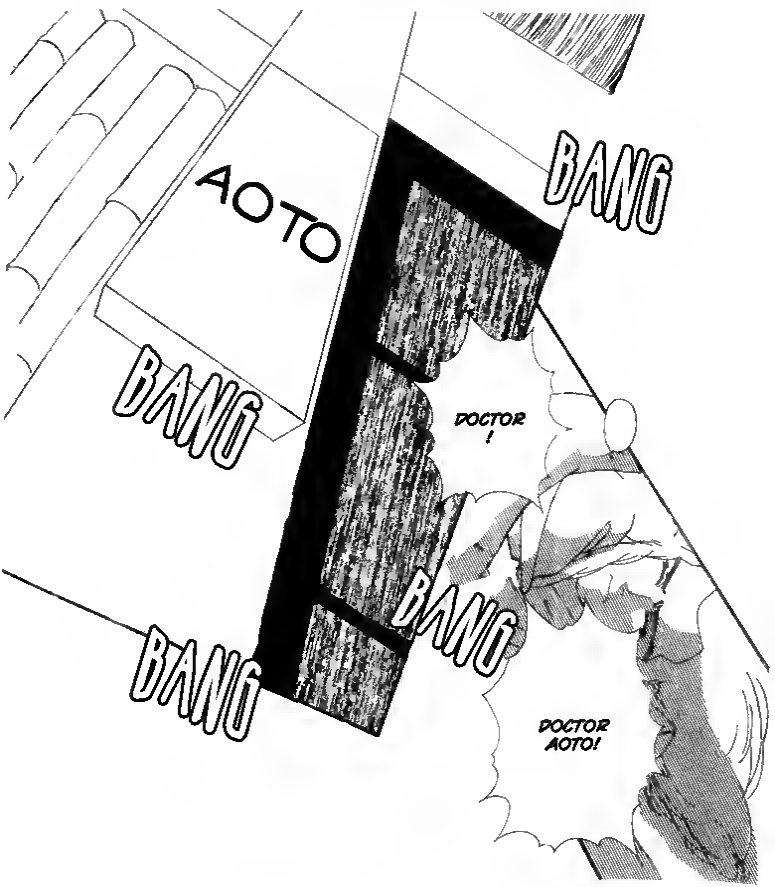
Proofread by Daffyd ap Morgen
Edited by Dlori
Quality checked by Xeronin

SUZAKU IS
ALIVE!!



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WHO ON EARTH COULD BE CALLING THE DOCTOR AT THIS TIME?
PROBABLY AN EMERGENCY PATIENT. LET'S GO OUT AND MEET HIM.
COMING, COMING!
I'M OPENNING THE DOOR RIGHT NOW
BANG
BANG
BANG
IS THIS AN URGENT CASE?
TELL ME YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS
LIFT
...SANGETSU.
OPEN

...HAVE MERCY.
DOCTOR AOTO, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE HER LIFE!!
I'VE GONE TO SEVERAL DOCTORS,
BUT NONE SAY THAT SHE'LL LIVE
..PLEASE HELP HER
SHE WAS BADLY IN-JURED

...COME INSIDE.
OFUKU-SAN, BOIL ME WATER IN THAT BIG POT.
LIGHT UP ALL THE LAMPS AND CANDLES.

AH...
THE WOUNDS ARE DEEPER THAN I THOUGHT.
HER NAME IS OYUU
SHE'S BEEN FOLLOWING ME AND HELPING ME WITH A LOT OF THINGS.
WHO IS THIS WOMAN?
WHY SHE IS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED?
SAN-GET-SU,
AS A DOCTOR, I'LL ASK MANY QUESTIONS.
ANSWER ME WELL

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THAT WAS THE REASON..!!
BECAUSE SHE STAYED CLOSE TO ME...
THAT'S WHY SUZAKU...!!
SUZAKU!?
SUZAKU IS DEAD
NO, HE'S ALIVE!!
AND HE MEANS BUSINESS THIS TIME!!
HE WON'T FORGIVE A TRAITOR
FIRST, HE'LL KILL ME AND KASHIN. TAKAO-DAYUU.
THEN HE'LL MOVE TO ACCOMPLISH HIS ORIGINAL PLAN.
AND SUZAKU'S PLAN
IS...?

TO SMUGGLE IN OPIUM
AND TO GET REVENGE ON THE TOKUGAWA FAMILY
THE SHOGUN'S FAMILY?
EVER SINCE I WAS YOUNG I WAS RAISED AS ONE OF THE FOUR TIGERS OF IGA.
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIS REAL FACE.
BUT ONE TIME...
I'LL NEVER FORGET
MY REVENGE ON THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNS FOR KILLING SILVIA, MY BELOVED WIFE.
I'LL NEVER FORGET.

note The Iga tradition of Ninpo ("Ninjutsu")

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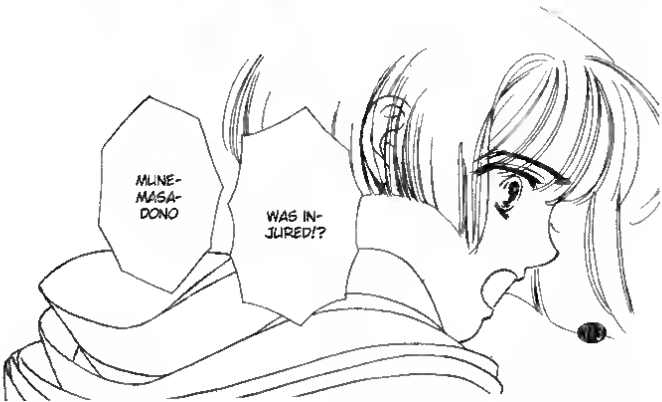
IF... THE PERSON
WHO WAS INJURED BECAUSE SHE WAS CLOSE TO YOU WERE USUGUMO...
I WOULD NEVER FORGIVE YOU.
KIKU-GUMI*
WILL RISK OUR LIFE TO PROTECT HER OURSELVES!!
DON'T YOU EVER COME NEAR HER
AGAIN!

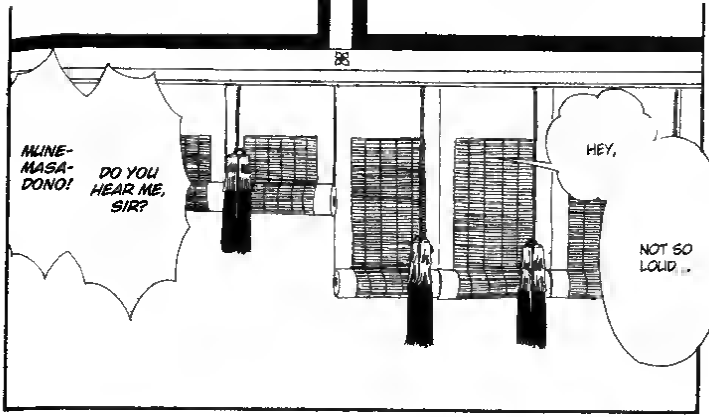
* Kiku-gumi = Kiku gang

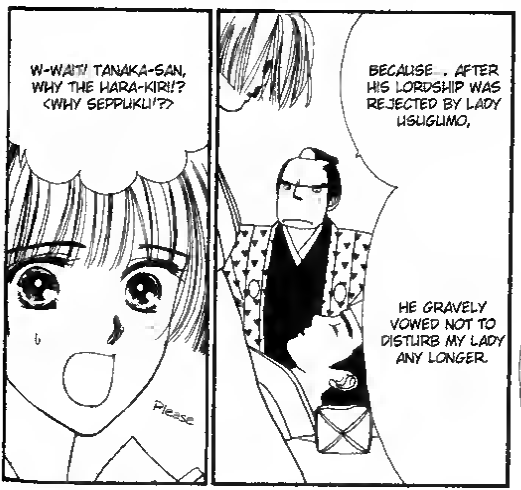
Kill...
Kill them...
I'll kill every one of the Tokugawa!
BOOM
ARGHH !?

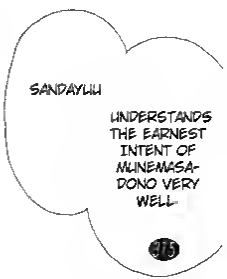
WHO IS IT!?
DON'T YOU LOWLIFE KNOW THAT THIS PALANQUIN BELONGS TO TOKUGAWA MUNEMASA, THE RULER OF KISHUU-HAN!?
WHAT HAPPENED!?
PAIN
AH...
MY LORD!?


MUNE-MASA-DONO
WAS IN-JURED!?

YES, MY LADY.
A BOMB WAS SUDDENLY THROWN IN FRONT OF THE PALANQUIN
ODDLY WE DIDN'T SEE ANYONE
HE'S BEEN UNCONSCIOUS FOR TWO DAYS NOW
BUT HE KEEPS CALLING OUT—
"USUGUMO"
BUT— AFTER THAT NIGHT,
HIS LORDSHIP BEGAN TO SUFFER A STRANGE HIGH FEVER..
MINEMASA-DONO!




W-WAIT! TANAKA-SAN, WHY THE HARA-KIRI!? <WHY SEPPUKU!?>
Please
BECAUSE... AFTER HIS LORDSHIP WAS REJECTED BY LADY USUGUMO,
HE GRAVELY VOWED NOT TO DISTURB MY LADY ANY LONGER.



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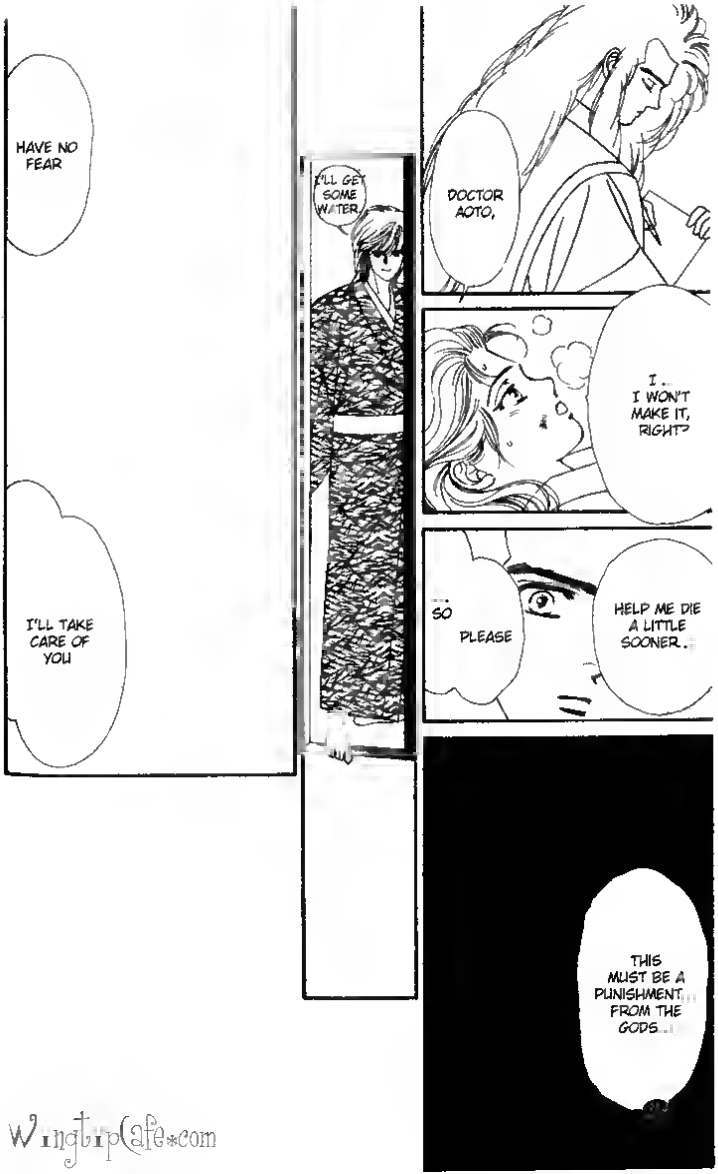
IT'S FINE
I'M WILLING
TO STAY HERE.
TANAKA-SAN.

SO MUNEMASA-DONO...
YOU MUST GET BETTER SOON

TWITCH
OYUU!
YOU WOKE UP!
SAN-GETSU
YOU'RE SAFE NOW
THANKS TO DOCTOR AOTO, THE GREATEST DOCTOR IN JAPAN
AH
AAAH ...!
I'M SCARED
OYUU.
A...
ARGH.
AH!


DOCTOR AOTO,
I... I WON'T MAKE IT, RIGHT?
...SO PLEASE HELP ME DIE A LITTLE SOONER...
THIS MUST BE A PUNISHMENT FROM THE GODS...
I'LL GET SOME WATER.
HAVE NO FEAR
I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU

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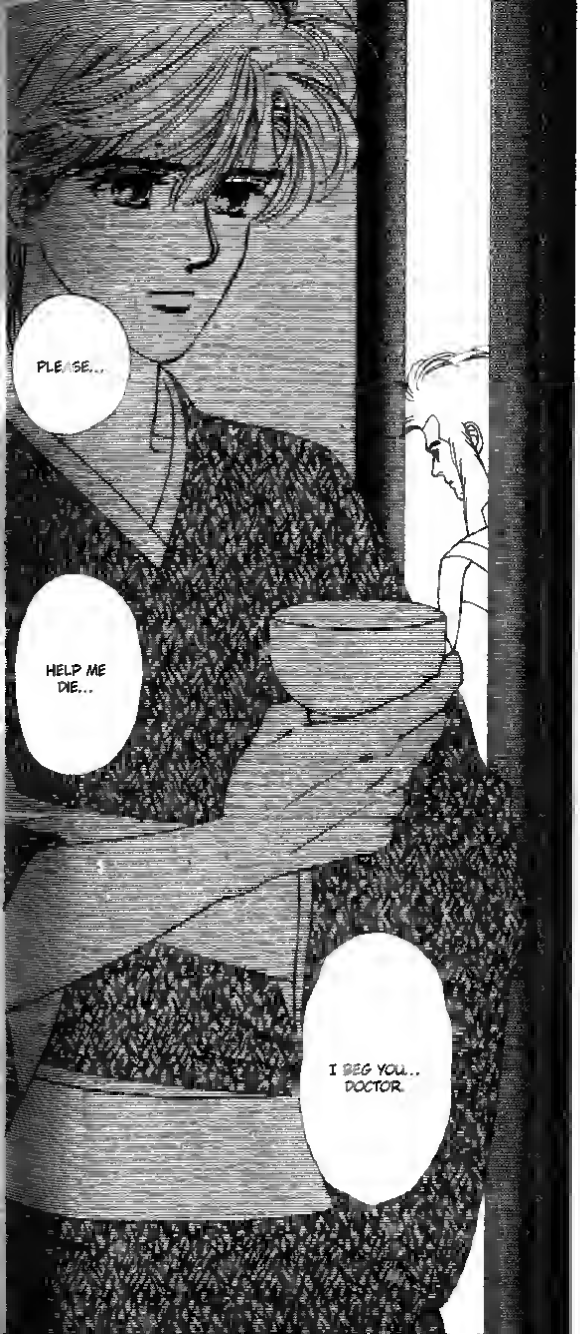
SILLY ME...
WHEN I SEE HIS FACE
THE WORDS .. JUST WON'T COME OUT...
SO PLEASE ..
LEAVE ME. . LIKE... THIS...
I... WANT TO TELL HIM. . TO HURRY BACK TO USUGUMO.
SANGETSU HAS A LOVER NAMED USUGUMO
THEY LOVE EACH OTHER DEARLY
BUT BE-CAUSE A DIRTY WOMAN LIKE ME...
KEEPS DANGLING AROUND...
THAT SIN...


PLEASE...
HELP ME DIE...
I BEG YOU... DOCTOR.

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NO!
I'LL WALK ALONE
QUICK!
NO!!
ARE YOU MAD?
LEAVE ME.
ALONE ..
MUNEMASA-DONO, PLEASE DON'T DIE!!

IT REAL-LY...
WASN'T A DREAM.
MUNEMASA -DONO

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DON'T LEAVE ME!

I CAN'T MAKE A CHOICE
BUT IF I CAN'T DECIDE

I WILL
I WILL

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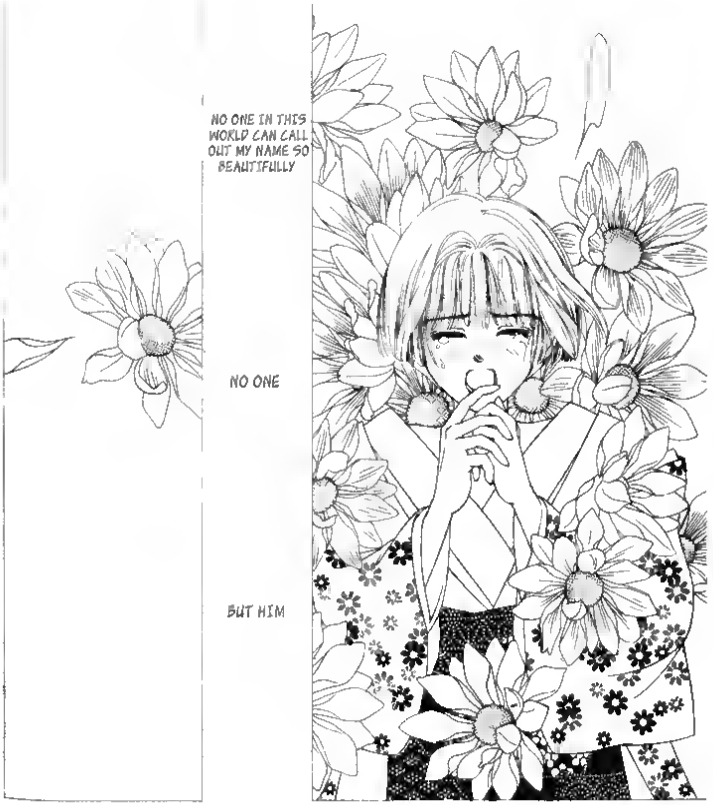
ひとりぼっち

NO.
USUGUMO!



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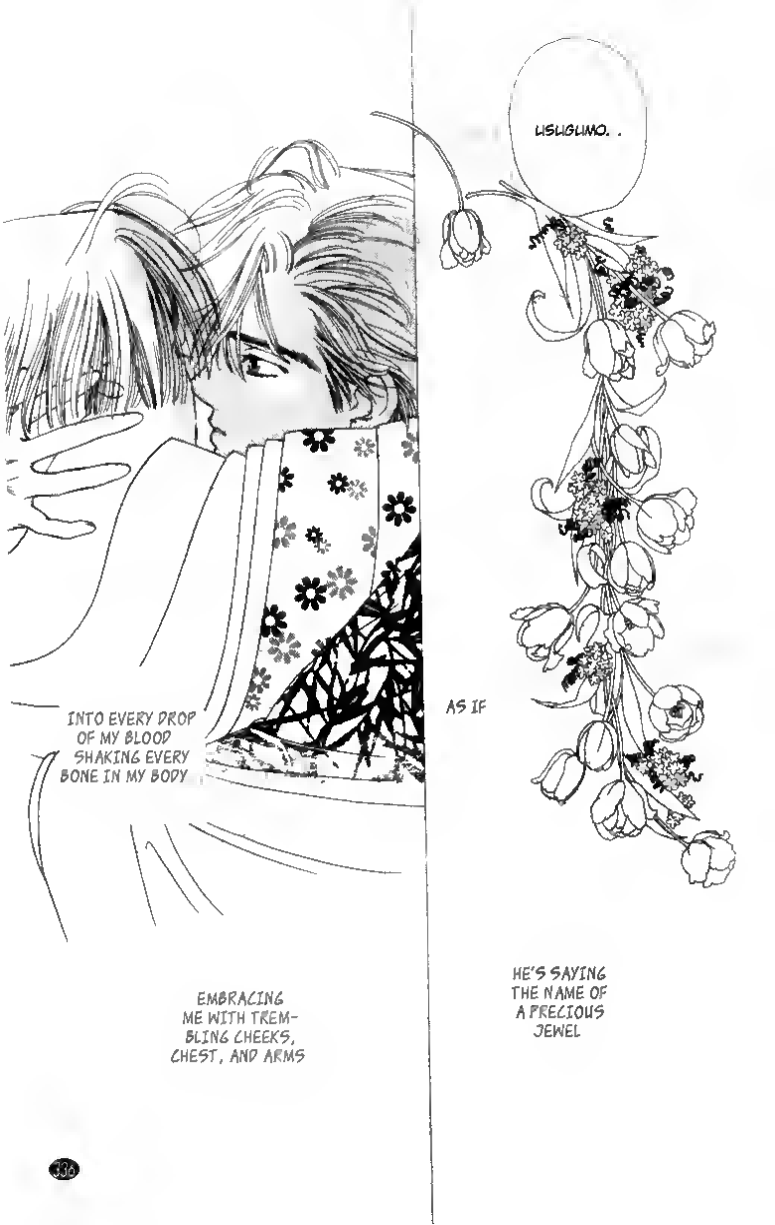
NO ONE ELSE

SANGETSU !

USUGUMO...
SANGETSU...
USUGUMO!
SANGETSU...


LISUGUMO. .
AS IF
INTO EVERY DROP OF MY BLOOD SHAKING EVERY BONE IN MY BODY
HE'S SAYING THE NAME OF A PRECIOUS JEWEL
EMBRACING ME WITH TREMBLING CHEEKS, CHEST, AND ARMS

.....
...I'VE
ALWAYS LONGED TO
CALL OUT YOUR NAME .. LIKE THIS...!!
SANGETSU...!

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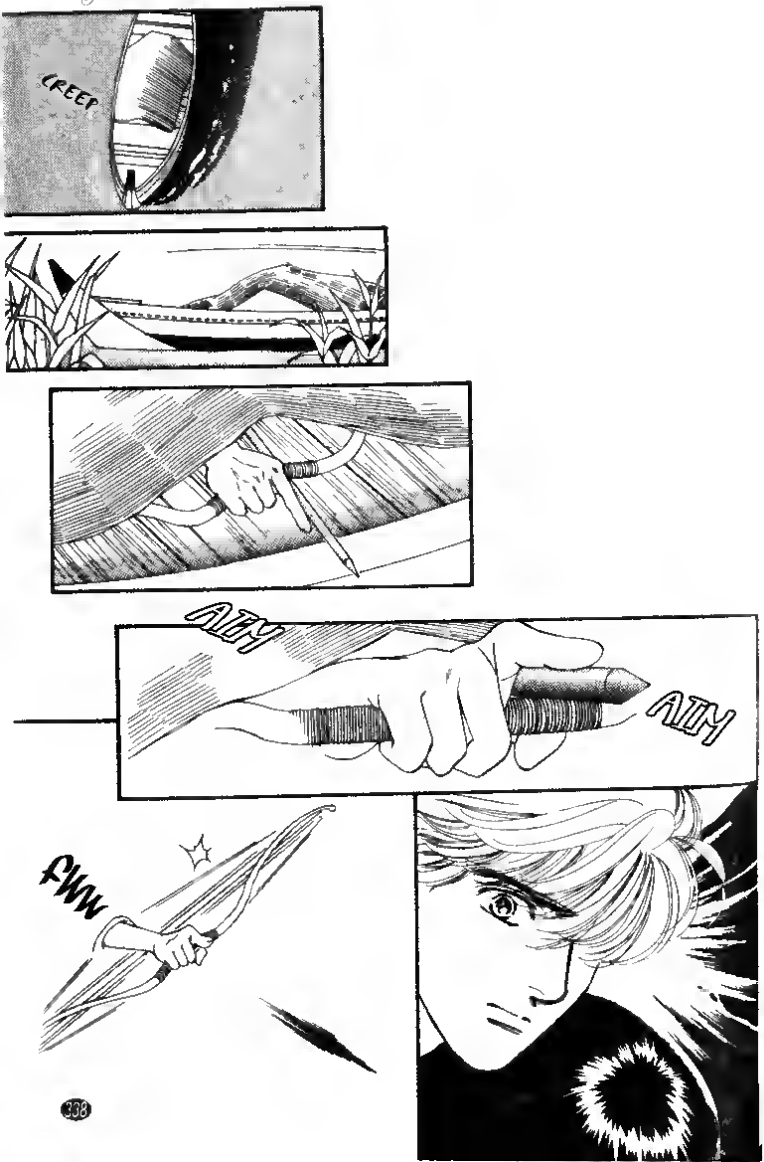

TUMBLE
THUD
SUZAKU !!
COME OUT OF HIDING, SUZAKU!
IF IT'S MY LIFE YOU WANT, FIGHT ME FACE-TO-FACE.
LEAVE USUGUMO ALONE!

...THAT I CANNOT DO.
WHAT IS MY ULTIMATE GOAL?
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT VERY WELL, SANGETSU.
HOW COULD YOU STILL BE ALIVE..!?
SUZAKU!?
THAT PICKPOCKET GIRL, OYUU,
I MAIMED HER TO TEACH YOU A LESSON
BUT USUGUMO..

I'LL DO IT TO AVENGE MY WIFE
EVERY ONE OF THE TOKUGAWA MUST DIE!
AND IT WON'T BE CHILD'S PLAY AS WITH OYUU.
I'LL KILL THEM BRUTALLY AND ENJOY WATCHING THEM DIE SLOWLY IN PAIN!
WAIT! WHAT REVENGE ...?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IF THE TOKUGAWA DID SOMETHING TERRIBLY WRONG TO YOU, I'LL ASK FATHER TO COMPENSATE.
MOREOVER, THIS COULD BE JUST A MISUNDERSTANDING ...

NO !!
FOR NOW, YOU SHOULD FIND A SAFE PLACE AND LAY LOW.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM.
FUNNY.
WE'LL FIGHT HIM TOGETHER
WE MUST NOT PART AGAIN.
SUZAKU IS OUR MUTUAL ENEMY!
THEN I SHALL GRANT THAT BLISS TO YOU.
IS IT SO BLISSFUL TO DIE TOGETHER?

Stab
KYA
...
AAH

USUGUMO!!
Splash
SANGETSU !!
TOMORROW AT KUREMUTSU (6PM), I'LL HAVE A BOAT SENT TO THIS RIVER.
FAIL TO HEED MY COMMAND, AND USUGUMO WILL DIE ALONE.
SANGETSU, YOU BETTER HAVE THE SHOGUN IN THE BOAT

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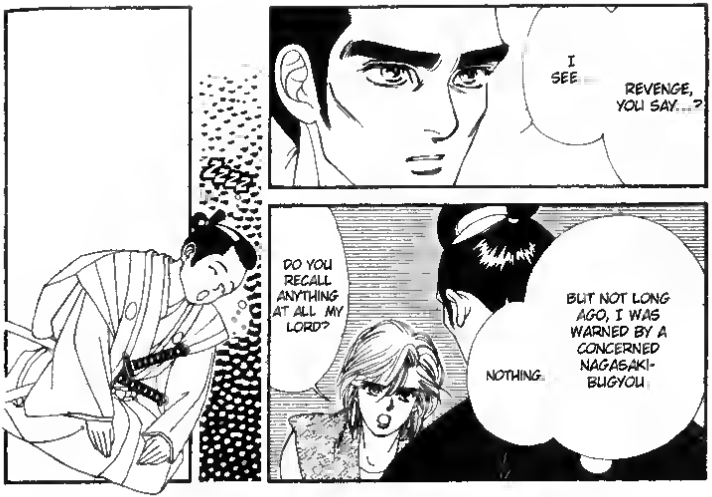
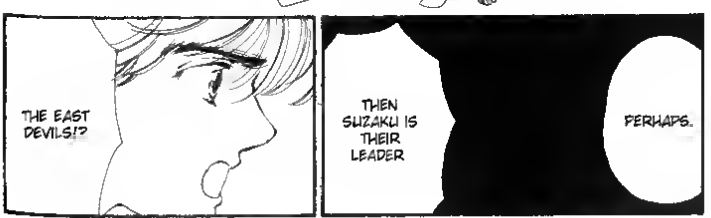
ZAA
ZAA
SPLASH
SPLASH
USUGUMO
!!

In the haze of her consciousness, Usugumo was happy.
for the signs that Suzaku must be destroyed told her Sangetsu s way and hers were about to merge into one again.
Their fate would not keep them apart anymore.
Even though Usugumo was in Suzaku's hands, her heart was filled with more hope than never before.

Edo castle
THUMP
RUST
WHO'S THAT?
MY NAME IS SANGETSU.
I'M HERE BECAUSE OF LADY USUGUMO.
STAY SILENT, SIR.
I'M NOT GOING TO HARM YOU.


I SEE...
REVENGE, YOU SAY...?
DO YOU RECALL ANYTHING AT ALL MY LORD?
NOTHING.
BUT NOT LONG AGO, I WAS WARNED BY A CONCERNED NAGASAKI-BUGYOU

LARGE QUANTITIES OF OPIUM ARE BEING SMUGGLED INTO THE COUNTRY BY NANBAN
RUMORS SAY THAT A GAIJIN SECRET ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN PLOTTING TO SUBVERT JAPAN WITH OPIUM AND OVERTHROW THE BAKUFU. THE ORGANIZATION'S NAME IS THE EASTERN DEVILS.



* Nanban = western merchants

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TOMORROW AT KUREMUTSU, IS IT?
SANGETSU, YOU'LL LEAD THE WAY
MUNEMASA !!
PLEASE RECONSIDER IT!
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS,
MY LORD, SHOGUN!
Bang
TONIGHT IS MY WATCH TO GUARD THE CASTLE AND I SENSED A STRANGE OMEN
PLEASE FORGIVE ME, BUT I'VE HEARD EVERYTHING FROM OUTSIDE THE DOOR.
I'M MOST CONCERNED FOR LADY USUGUMO'S LIFE
I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS TASK SIR

I'M...
WILLING TO RISK MY LIFE TO BRING LADY USUGUMO BACK SAFELY...
SANGETSU,
I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO BE MY STRENGTH.

WILL WE REALLY FIND ANYTHING USEFUL
IN THESE PILES OF RECORDS OF RELIGIOUS STUFF?
WE'VE ALREADY INVESTIGATED FOREIGNERS' CENSUS FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS.
BECAUSE WE THOUGHT SUZAKU'S WIFE NAMED "SILVIA" WAS PROBABLY A GAIJIN LIVING IN EDO.
BUT WE'VE FOUND NO SUCH NAME...
SO IT COULD BE THE BAPTISMAL NAME OF A JAPANESE WOMAN.
MY MOTHER WAS ALSO A CHRISTIAN BUT HER BAPTIZED NAME IS UNKNOWN TO ME.
SHE WAS FORCED BY OFFICIALS TO RENNOUNCE CHRISTIANITY WHILE SHE WAS STILL PREGNANT.
AND GIVE ME UP ONCE I WAS BORN.
THEY SEEMED TO FORBID MY FATHER, YAHEI, WHO RAISED ME UNTIL I WAS FOUR, TO SPEAK OF MY MOTHER.
IF SUZAKU SAID HE'S DOING THIS FOR THOSE CHRISTIAN WOMEN WHO HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CRUELLY TREATED,
I MUST SAY I CAN'T HELP BUT SYMPATHIZE WITH HIM.
WHAT'S WRONG, JIRO-KICHI?
...I FOUND IT.
I FOUND 'SILVIA'...

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THE DAUGHTER OF GENHACHI,
THE DYING SHOP SHIROGANE,
AGED 16, NAMED SILVIA

MALE : KIKUNOSUKE -
ADOPTED BY YAHEI OF
MINAMIHACHIMAN VILLAGE
SINCE BIRTH.

THUD
THAT...
THAT HAIR...

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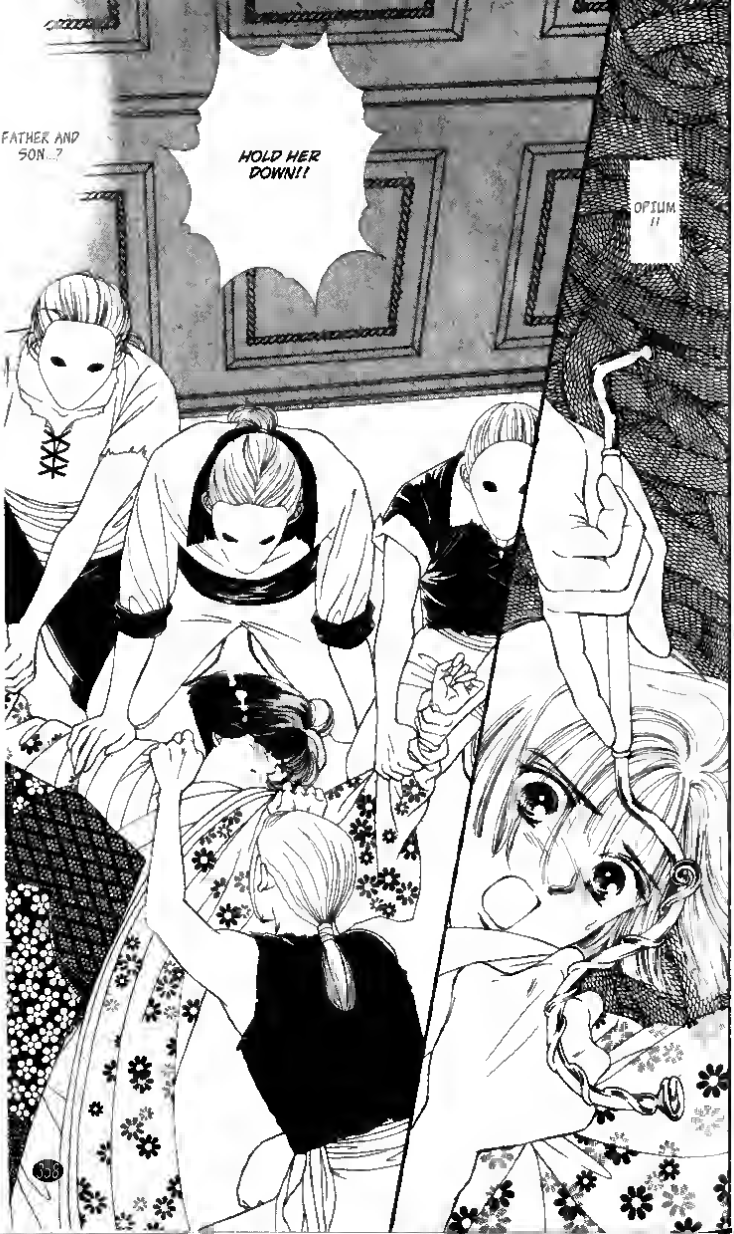
FATHER AND SON...?
HOLD HER DOWN!!
OPIUM !!
?!

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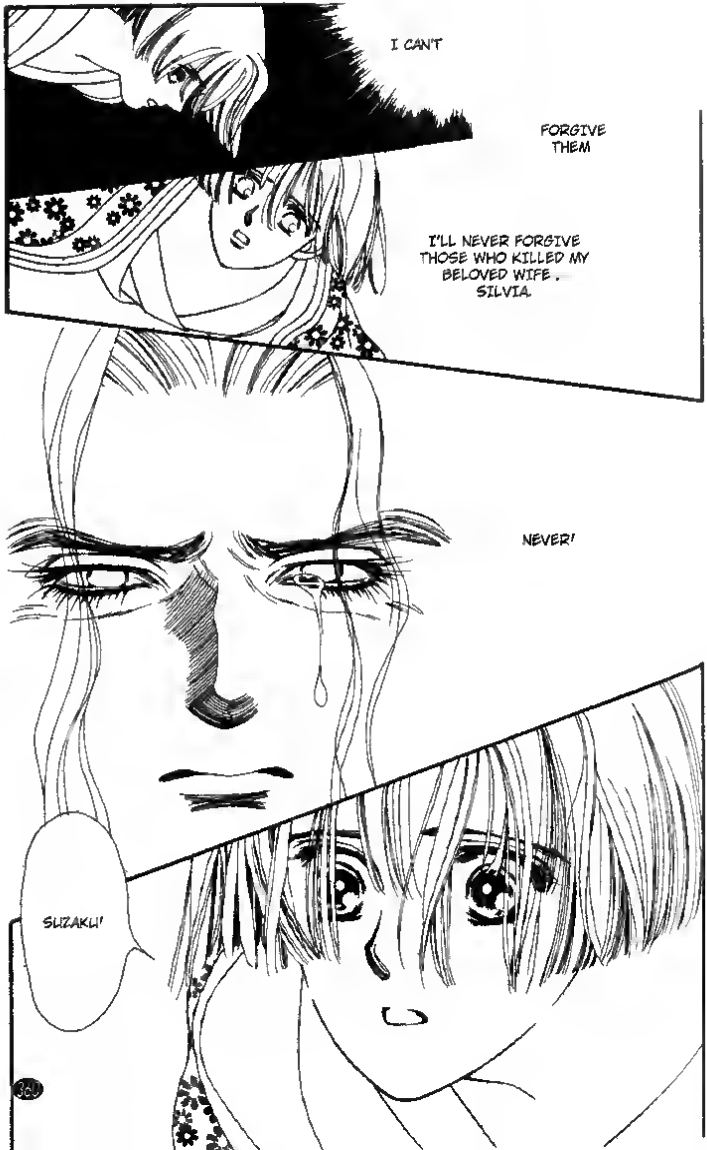
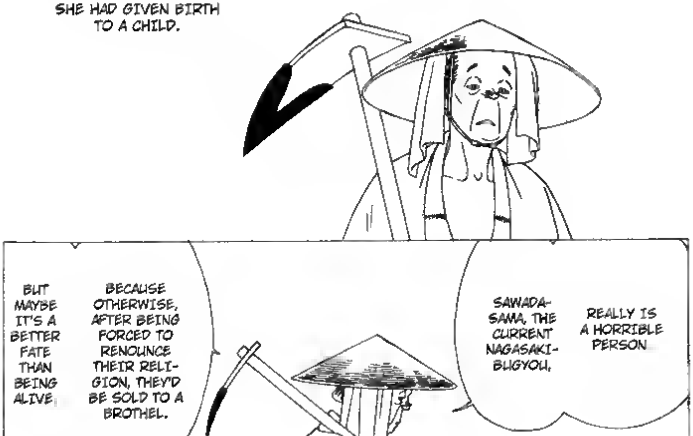
THOSE OF THE TOKUGAWA CLAN ARE OF THE SAME BLOOD...
THEY MUST PAY!
THE BITTERNESS OF THE HELPLESS WOMEN AND CHRISTIANS WHO WERE KILLED...
YE SHALL DRINK OF IT!


I CAN'T
FORGIVE THEM
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE THOSE WHO KILLED MY BELOVED WIFE, SILVIA.
NEVER!
SUZAKU!

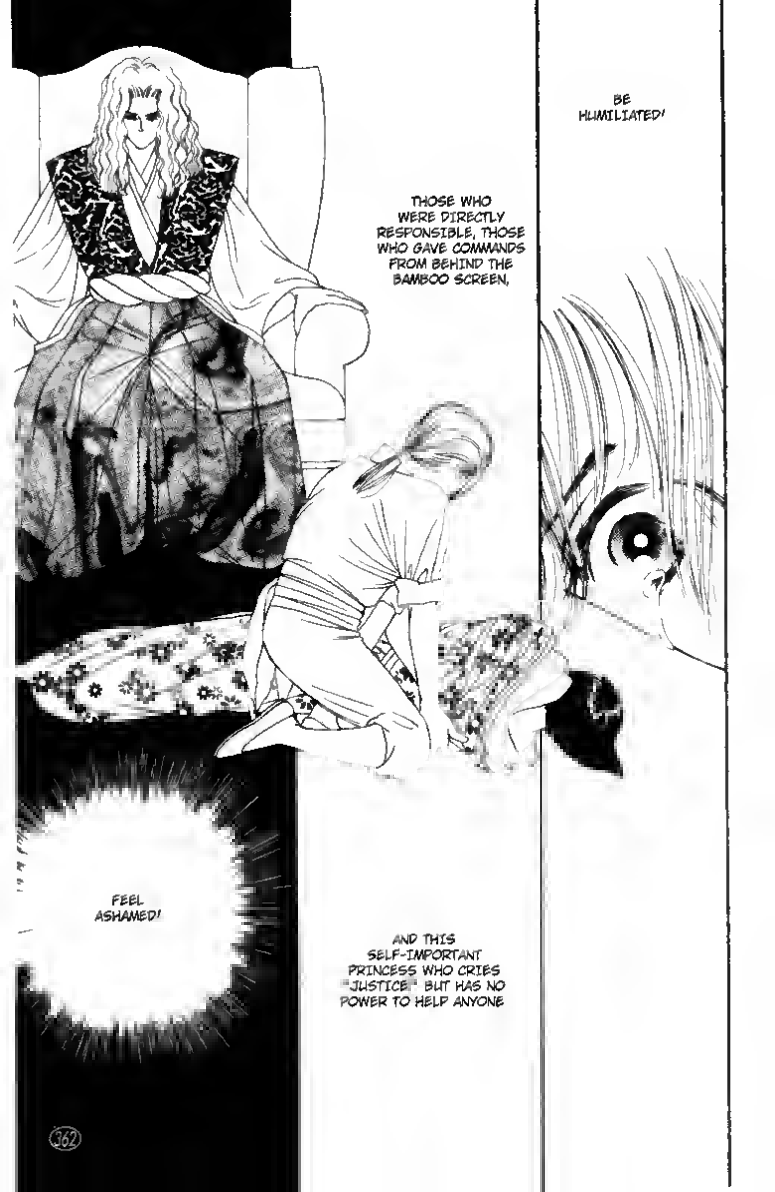
I RETURNED TO MY HOME COUNTRY NEVER REALIZING THAT SILVIA WAS PREGNANT.

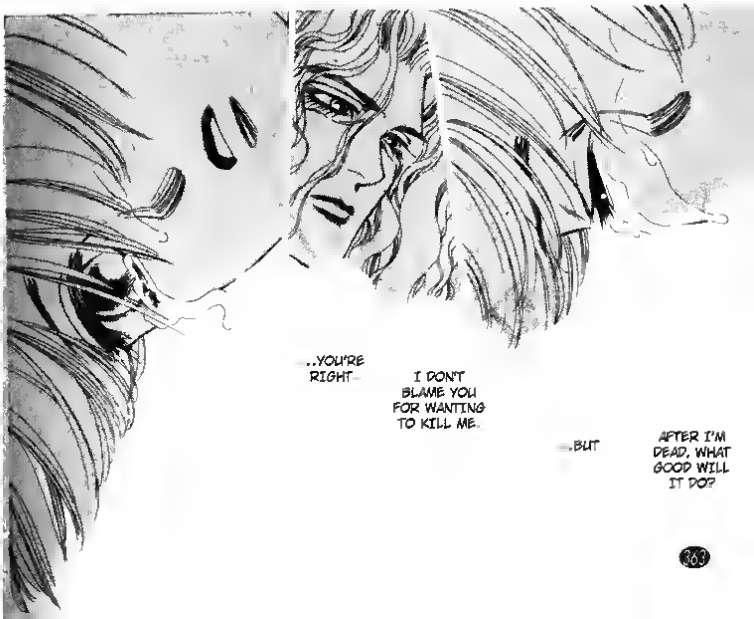
OH. I HEARD EVERY SINGLE CHRISTIAN IN THAT VILLAGE WAS TORTURED TO DEATH.

I CAME BACK TO JAPAN TEN YEARS LATER TO LEARN THAT SHE HAD GIVEN BIRTH TO A CHILD.


BUT MAYBE IT'S A BETTER FATE THAN BEING ALIVE.
BECAUSE OTHERWISE, AFTER BEING FORCED TO RENOUNCE THEIR RELIGION, THEY'D BE SOLD TO A BROTHEL.
SAWADA-SAMA, THE CURRENT NAGASAKI-BUGYOU,
REALLY IS A HORRIBLE PERSON.

SINCE IT WAS BORN MY CHILD WAS LEFT IN THE INDIFFERENT HANDS OF FATE


BE HUMILIATED!
THOSE WHO WERE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE, THOSE WHO GAVE COMMANDS FROM BEHIND THE BAMBOO SCREEN,
FEEL ASHAMED!
AND THIS SELF-IMPORTANT PRINCESS WHO CRIES "JUSTICE" BUT HAS NO POWER TO HELP ANYONE


..YOU'RE RIGHT
I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR WANTING TO KILL ME.
...BUT
AFTER I'M DEAD, WHAT GOOD WILL IT DO?

WHAT ARE WE LIVING FOR?
TO GRIEVE FOR THE EVILS WE'VE DONE?
YOU'RE WRONG
THOSE WHO ARE ABLE TO LIVE TODAY SHOULD CHERISH THE GIFT OF LIFE.
THEY HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN,
AND THEY MUST LIVE FOR TOMORROW

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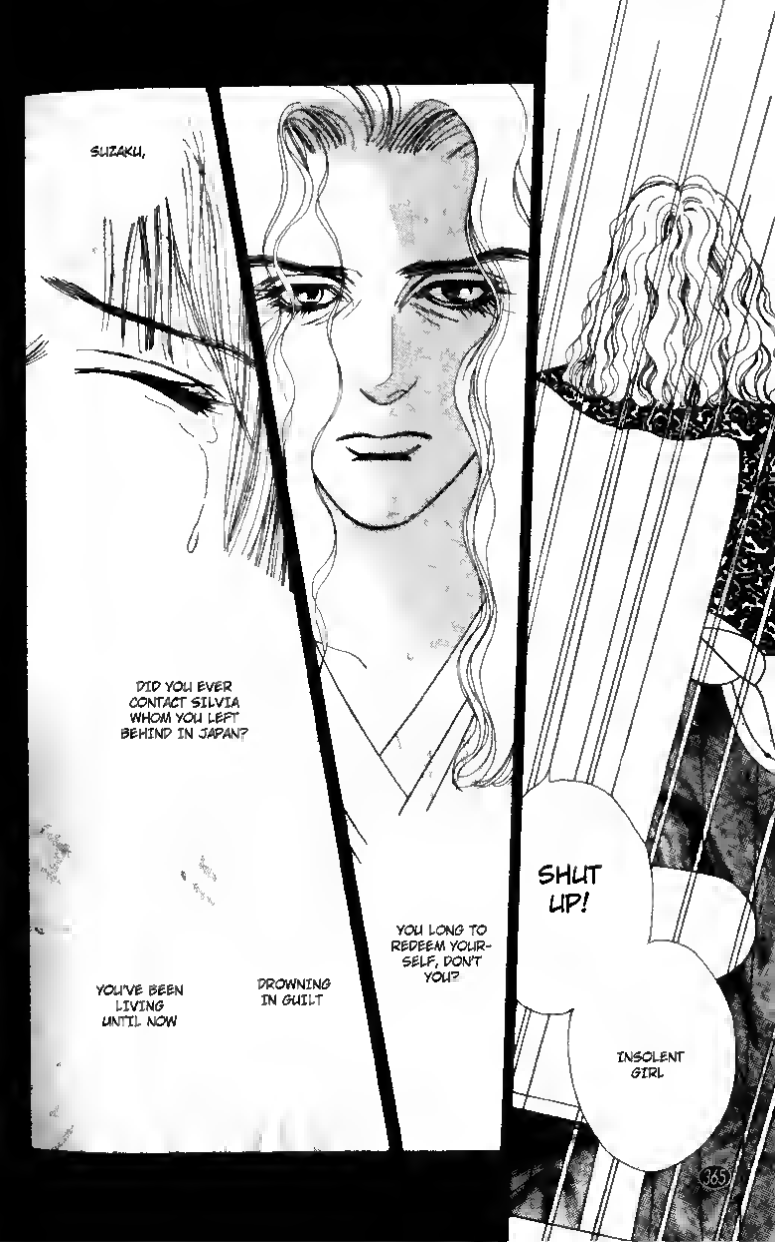
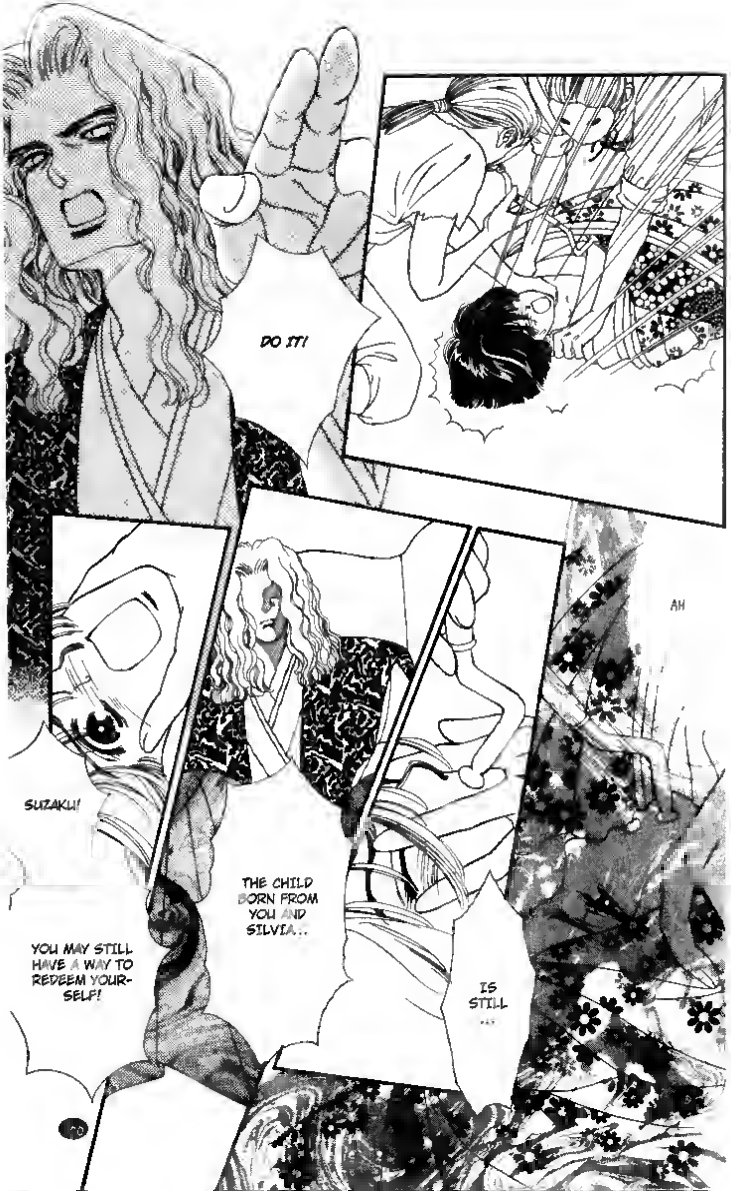

SUZAKU,
DID YOU EVER CONTACT SILVIA WHOM YOU LEFT BEHIND IN JAPAN?
YOU'VE BEEN LIVING UNTIL NOW
DROWNING IN GUILT
YOU LONG TO REDEEM YOURSELF, DON'T YOU?
SHUT UP!
INSOLENT GIRL


DO IT!
AH
SUZAKU!
THE CHILD BORN FROM YOU AND SILVIA...
IS STILL ...
YOU MAY STILL HAVE A WAY TO REDEEM YOURSELF!

SANGETSU!!

THE DAUGHTER OF GENHACHI, SHIROGANE DYING SHOP, AGED 16, NAMED SILVIA.
MALE | KIKUNOSUKE - ADOPTED BY YAHEI OF MINAMIHACHIMAN VILLAGE SINCE BORN.

FATHER ...!?

THUMP
THUMP
KIKU-NIICHAN!
...SORRY
I WANT TO BE ALONE
NIICHAN!
JIRO-KICHI!

DOCTOR!? WHAT'S WRONG!?
IF THE WOMAN NAMED SILVIA WAS KIKU-NIICHAN'S MOTHER,
THEN SUZAKU IS...
THAT'S RIGHT.
NOW I KNOW WHY THAT EMBLEM LOOKS FAMILIAR...
THE FLAG OF "THE EAST DEVIL"...!!
"THE EAST DEVIL"?
RUMORS SAY THEY SMUGGLE OPIUM AND ALWAYS APPEAR ON A GHOST SHIP?
YES
THAT PHOENIX SIGN...
NOW I KNOW WHERE I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE

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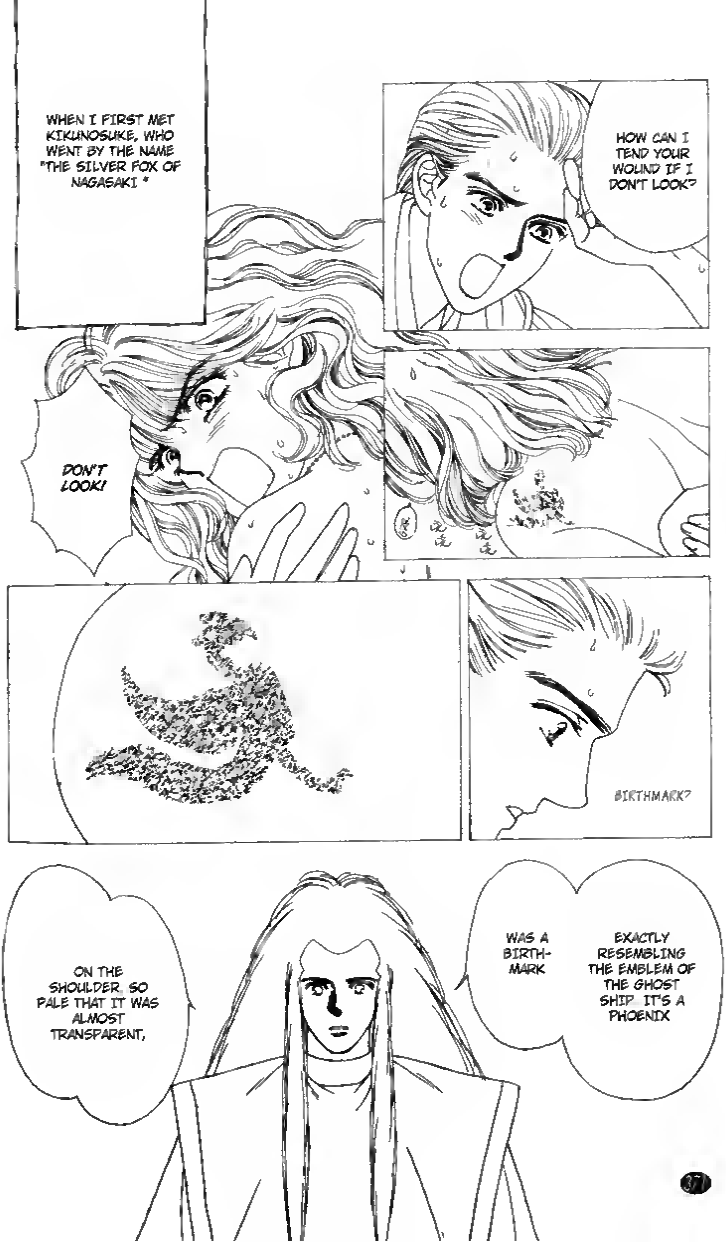
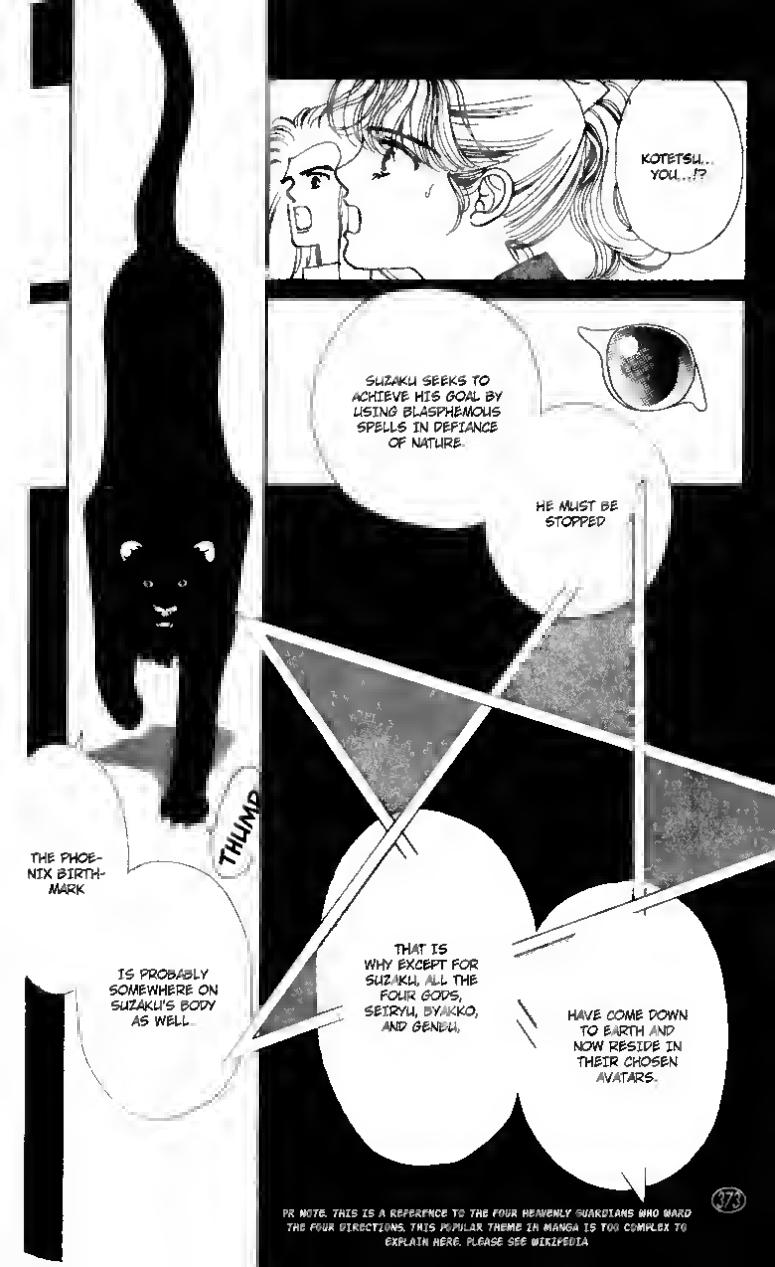

WHEN I FIRST MET KIKUNOSUKE, WHO WENT BY THE NAME "THE SILVER FOX OF NAGASAKI."
HOW CAN I TEND YOUR WOUND IF I DON'T LOOK?
DON'T LOOK!
BIRTHMARK?
ON THE SHOULDER, SO PALE THAT IT WAS ALMOST TRANSPARENT,
WAS A BIRTH-MARK
EXACTLY RESEMBLING THE EMBLEM OF THE GHOST SHIP. IT'S A PHOENIX

THEN THE OUTRAGEOUS SMUGGLING OF OPIUM
AND ASSASSINATION OF TOKUGAWA CLAN MEMBERS ARE
THE WORK OF "THE EAST DEVIL"
UNDER
SUZAKU'S COMMAND
WHO'S ALSO KIKU-NIICHAN'S FATHER!?

THAT'S RIGHT.


KOTETSU..
YOU...!?
SUZAKU SEEKS TO ACHIEVE HIS GOAL BY USING BLASPHEMOUS SPELLS IN DEFIANCE OF NATURE.
HE MUST BE STOPPED
THUMP
THE PHOENIX BIRTHMARK
IS PROBABLY SOMEWHERE ON SUZAKU'S BODY AS WELL.
THAT IS WHY EXCEPT FOR SUZAKU, ALL THE FOUR GODS, SEIRYU, BYAKKO, AND GENBU,
HAVE COME DOWN TO EARTH AND NOW RESIDE IN THEIR CHOSEN AVATARS.

PR NOTE. THIS IS A REFERENCE TO THE FOUR HEAVENLY GUARDIANS WHO WARD THE FOUR DIRECTIONS. THIS POPULAR THEME IN MANGA IS TOO COMPLEX TO EXPLAIN HERE. PLEASE SEE WIKIPEDIA

THE GOD OF THE WEST, BYAKKO, IS WITH ME.
THE GOD OF THE EAST, SEIRYU, CHOSE KIKUNOSUKE
AND HAS REPLACED HIS PHOENIX BIRTH-MARK WITH A DRAGON TATTOO
AND THE GOD OF THE NORTH, GENBU...
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO LOCATE THE PERSON WHO WAS BORN UNDER THE STAR OF GENBU.

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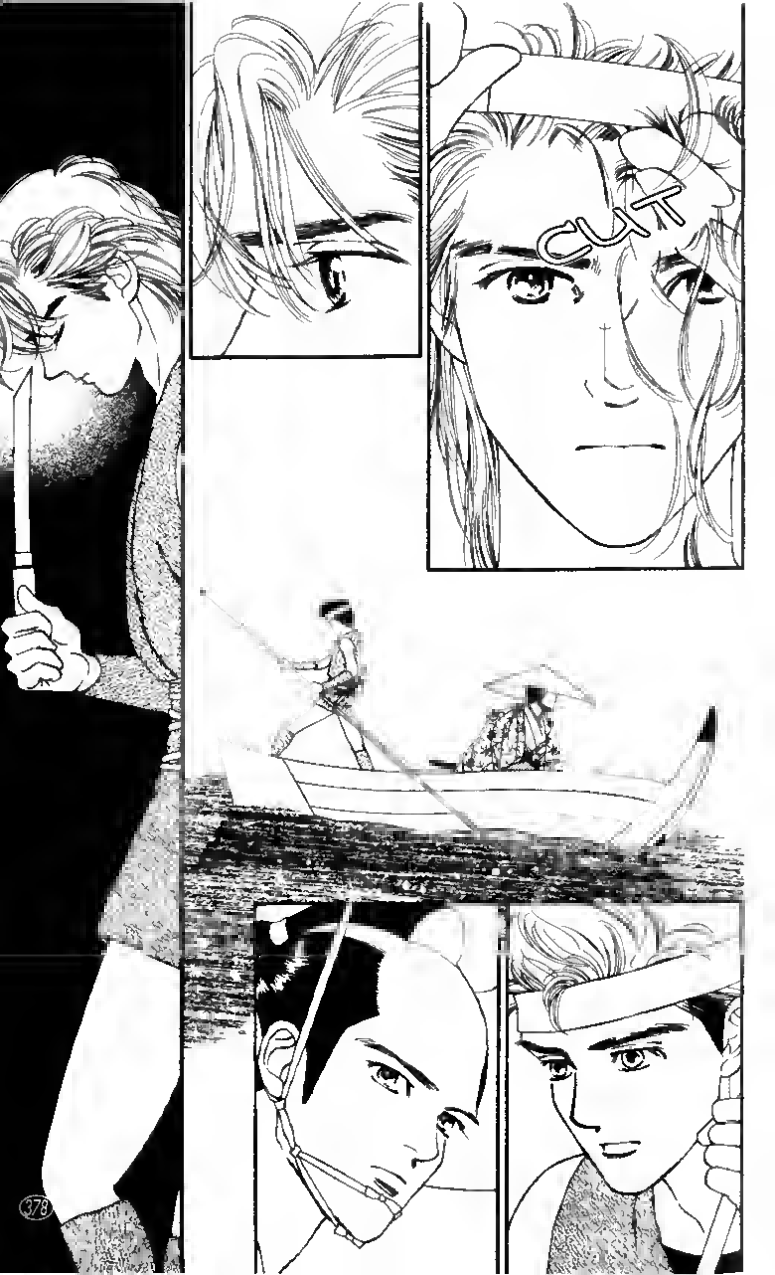
THE PERSON WHO IS STRONG ENOUGH TO STAND UP AGAINST THE CRUEL HAND OF FATE
WITH SMILES AND A GENTLE HEART,
WITH THE CHARISMA TO CHARM PEOPLE'S HEARTS
SHE WHO IS BUT A 15-YEAR-OLD GIRL

USUGUMO...
USUGUMO AND KIKUNOSUKE MET WITHOUT REALIZING THEIR DESTINY.
THEY WERE PULLED TOGETHER BY AN INVISIBLE CHAIN
TO CRASH INTO EACH OTHER.
WITH HER AS THE CENTER
KIKUNOSUKE
DOCTOR AOTO,
JIROKICHI,
MYSELF,
IN OTHER WORDS,
TAKAO
AND SANGETSU
USUGUMO WAS THE ONE WHO BROUGHT US ALL TOGETHER.

WE'RE THE SEVEN STARS OF URSA MAJOR WHO CAN SUPPRESS THE POWER OF SUZAKU THE GOD OF THE SOUTH


CUT

LOVE
IS SO DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND...
WHAT'LL YOU DO AFTER RESCUING USUGUMO?
SANGETTSU,
WILL YOU SNATCH HER AWAY?
OR STEP BACK AND LEAVE HER WITH ME?
USUGUMO AND MUNEMASADONO ARE...
BETROTHED.
TO WIN THE BATTLE BUT LOSE A SWORDFIGHT WOULD BE PATHETIC, THOUGH

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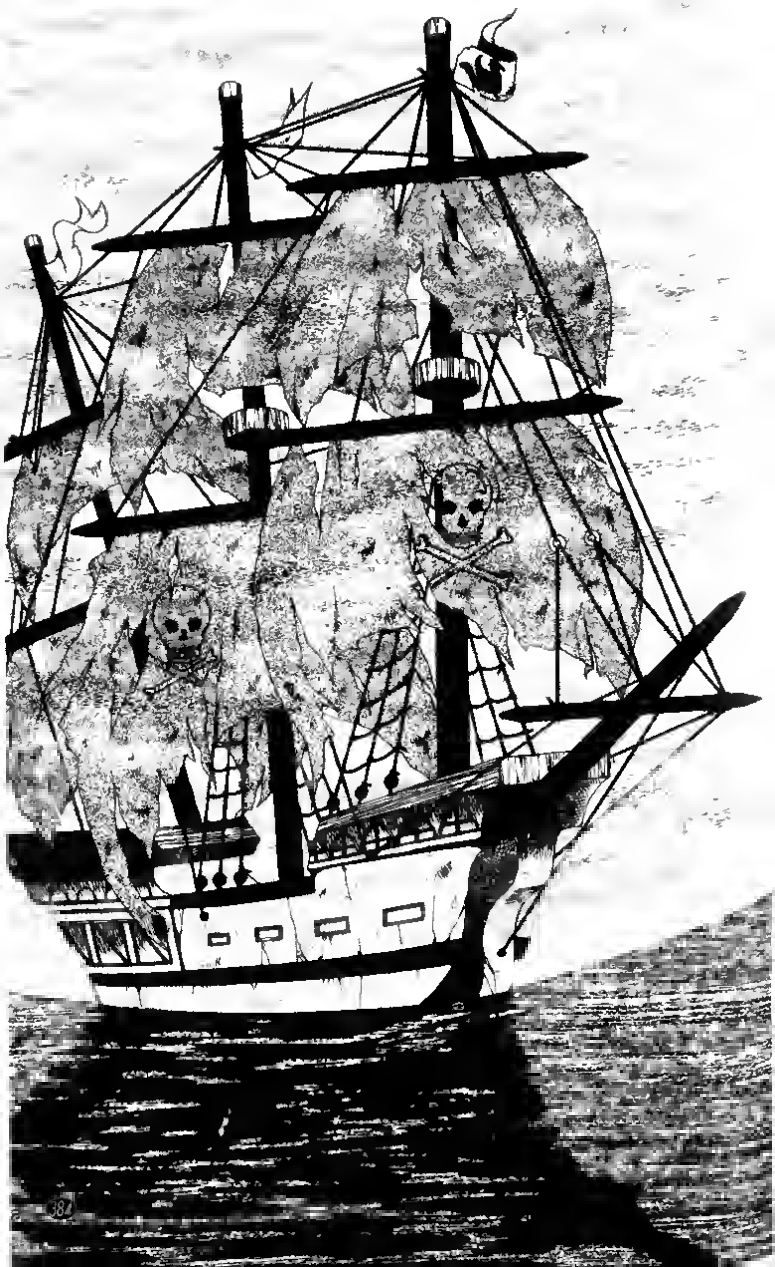
THE WATER'S MIXED WITH HYPNOTICS, ISN'T IT?
YOU MEANT TO DRUG ME TO PROTECT ME, DIDN'T YOU?
DON'T BOTHER.
THUD
SPLASH
LET ME GO WITH YOU
SANGETSU, YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL

...UNDERSTOOD, SIR.
Gong
Gong
...FINALLY KUREMUTSU*!
SPLASH
SPLASH
*Kuremutsu = 6PM

THE BOAT IS GETTING PULLED IN.
whoom
SUCH THICK FOG..
WITH THIS SPEED..
THE BOAT WILL BE OUT INTO THE OCEAN IN NO TIME
Splash



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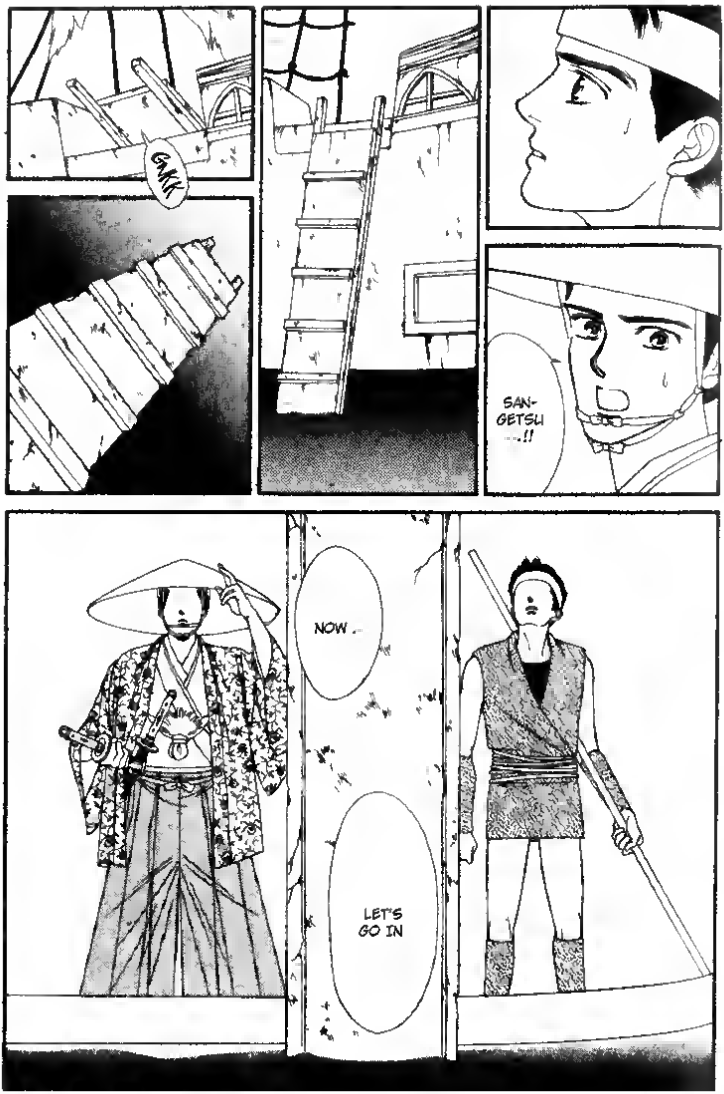
THE GHOST SHIP..!?



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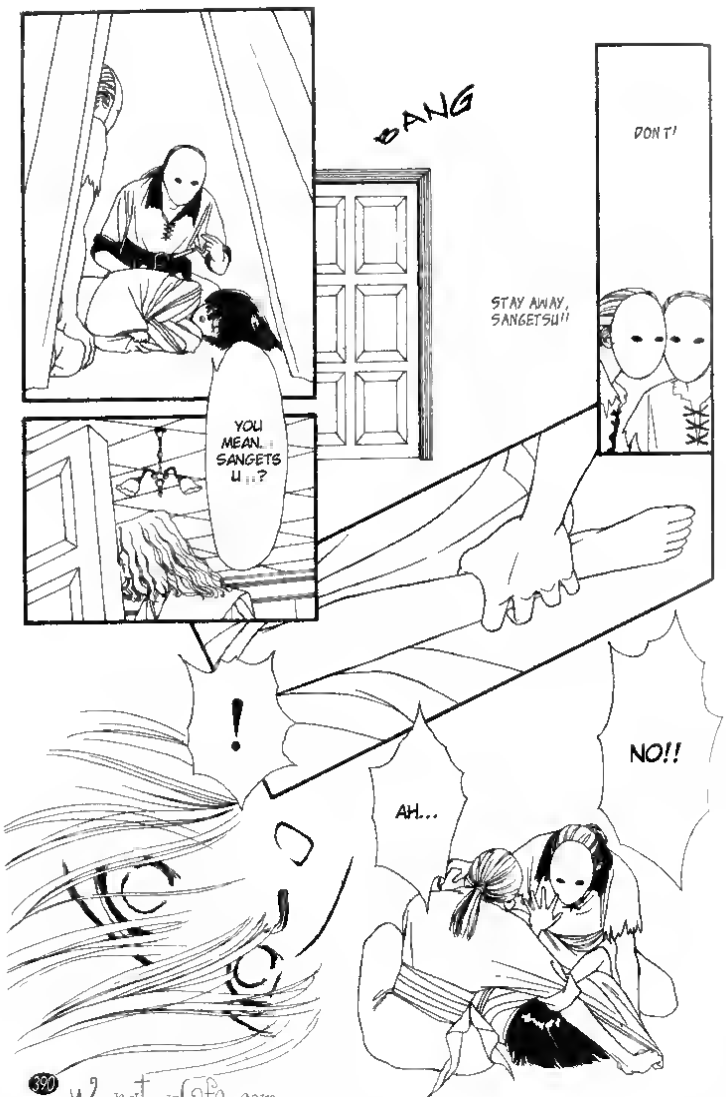
BUT BE CAUTIOUS SHE KNOWS THE ART OF SWORDPLAY
THAT GIRL.
ONCE SHE CAN'T MOVE ANYMORE, DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.
I WILL ENTERTAIN MYSELF WITH THE NEWCOMERS
IT'S ABOUT TIME THAT THOSE FOOLISH RATS TO FALL INTO MY TRAP.



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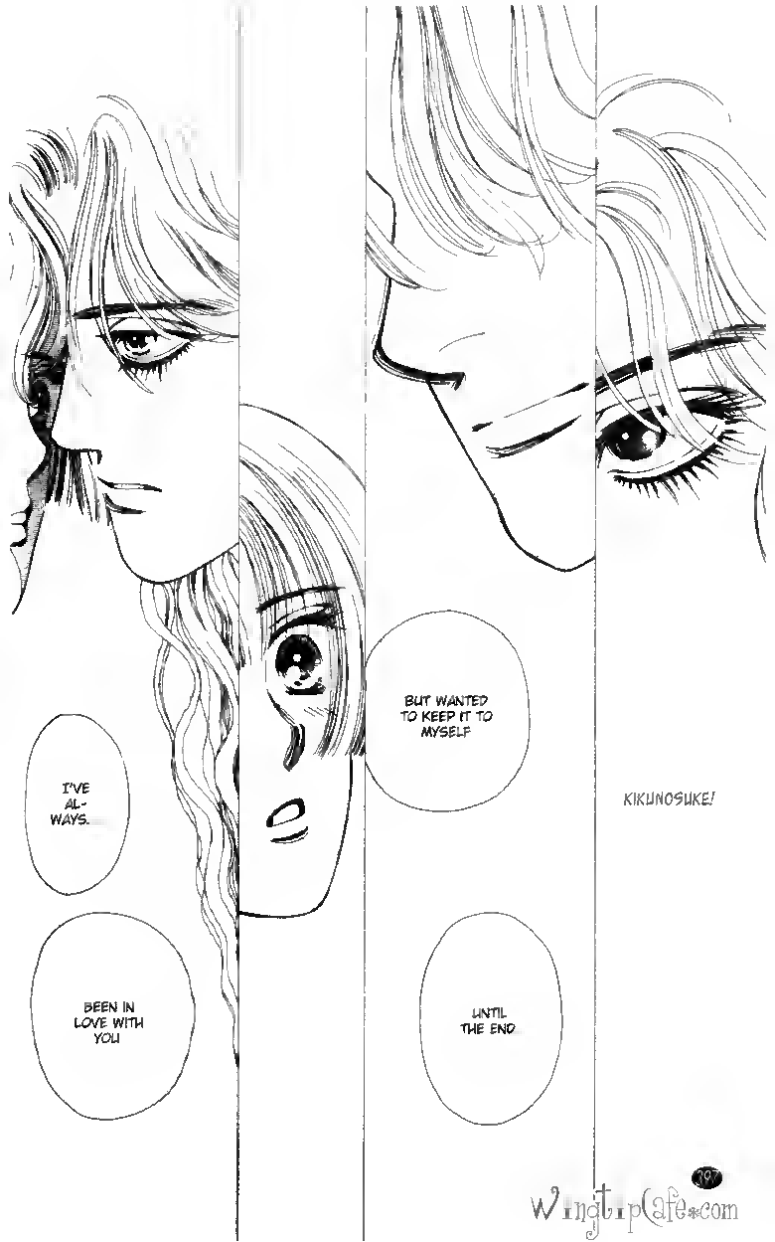
I HAVE NO STRENGTH AT ALL !
STAB
ARGHH
KKKK

KIKUNOSUKE!
KI..
STARTLE
I'LL SEND
EVERY ONE OF YOU

Cut
NO!!
ARGHH
SLASH
SLASH
TO HELL!
393

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT
HIGUMO...?



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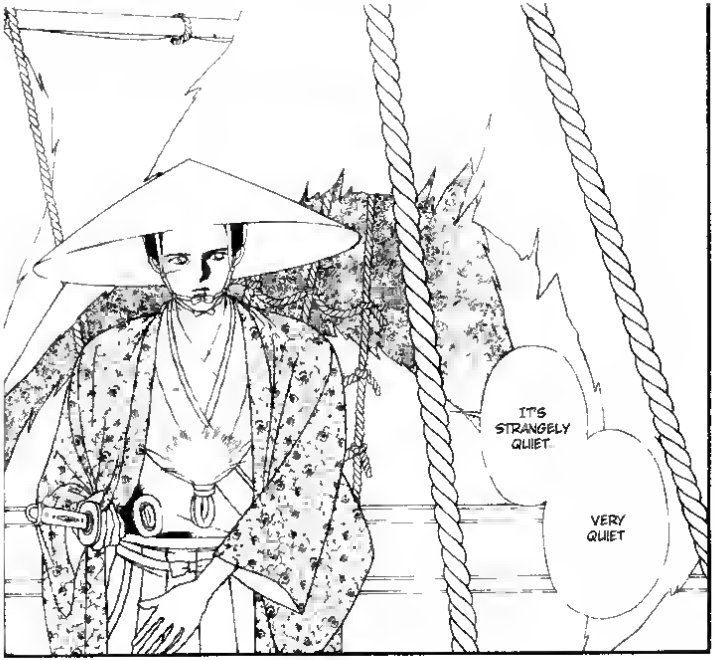
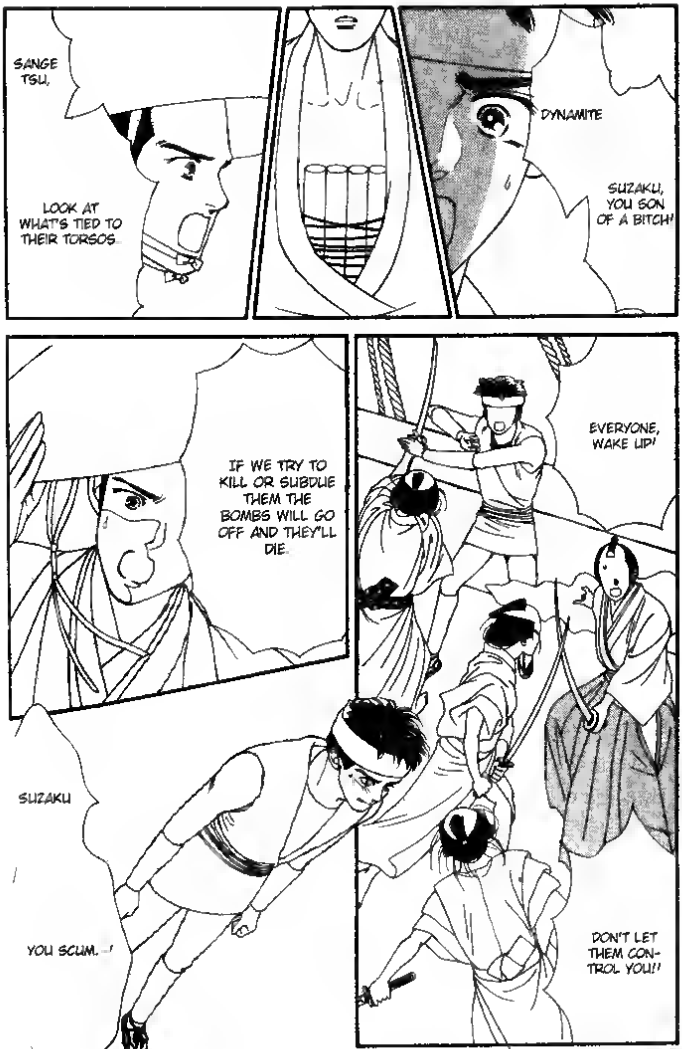
NO
NOT THOSE DISTANT EYES
KI..
KU..
NO...SU
KE...!
BE HAPPY, USUGUMO


IT'S STRANGELY QUIET
VERY QUIET

TRUE
BUT THIS REALLY STINKS LIKE A TRAP

APPROACH
APPROAC
THEY ARE ..!?
LOOK! VACANT EYES. IT'S OPIUM
Y...
YAHHH!!
THEY'RE INNOCENT VILLAGERS DRUGGED WITH OPIUM.


SANGE TSU,
LOOK AT WHAT'S TIED TO THEIR TORSOS.
DYNAMITE
SUZAKU, YOU SON OF A BITCH!
IF WE TRY TO KILL OR SUBDUE THEM THE BOMBS WILL GO OFF AND THEY'LL DIE.
EVERYONE, WAKE UP!
SUZAKU
YOU SCUM...!
DON'T LET THEM CONTROL YOU!!

MUNEMASA -DONO!
YOU'RE HERE!
PLEASE RETURN TO EDO CASTLE AT ONCE, SIR
MORE AND MORE OF SUZAKU'S ASSASSINS ARE KEEP SLIPPING INTO THE CASTLE.
THERE COULD BE SO OF THEM!
WHAT ...!?

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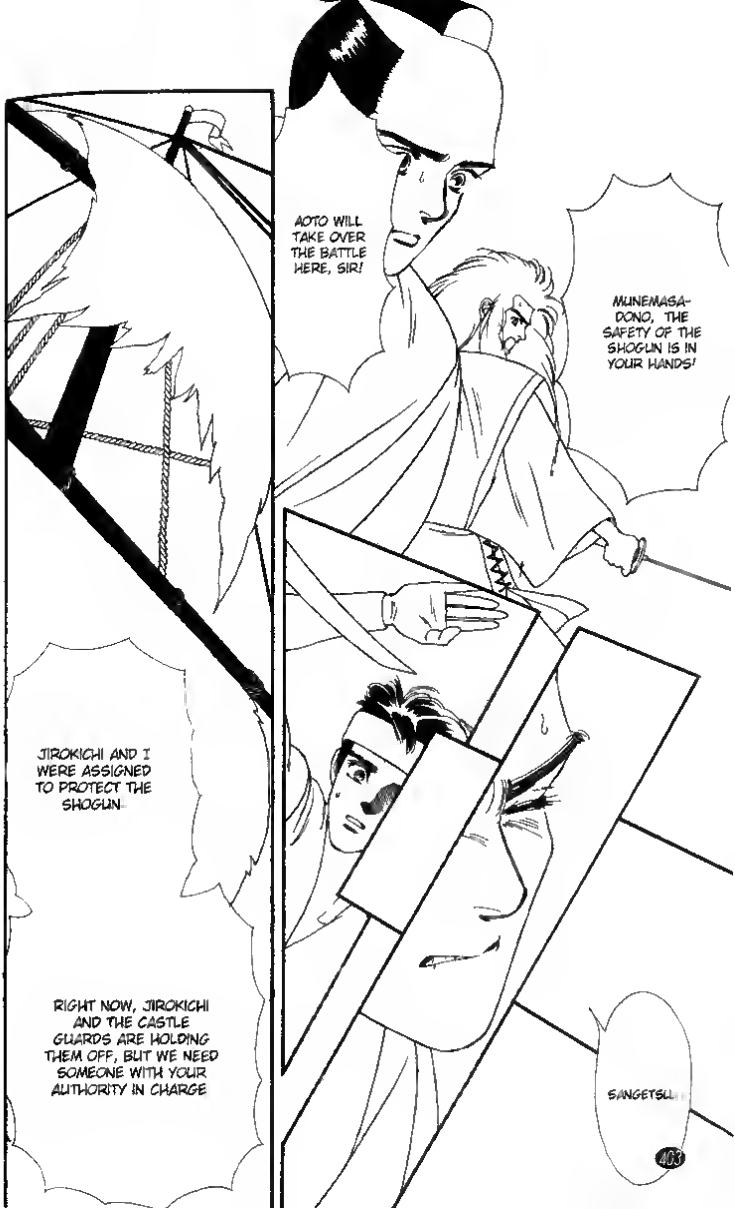
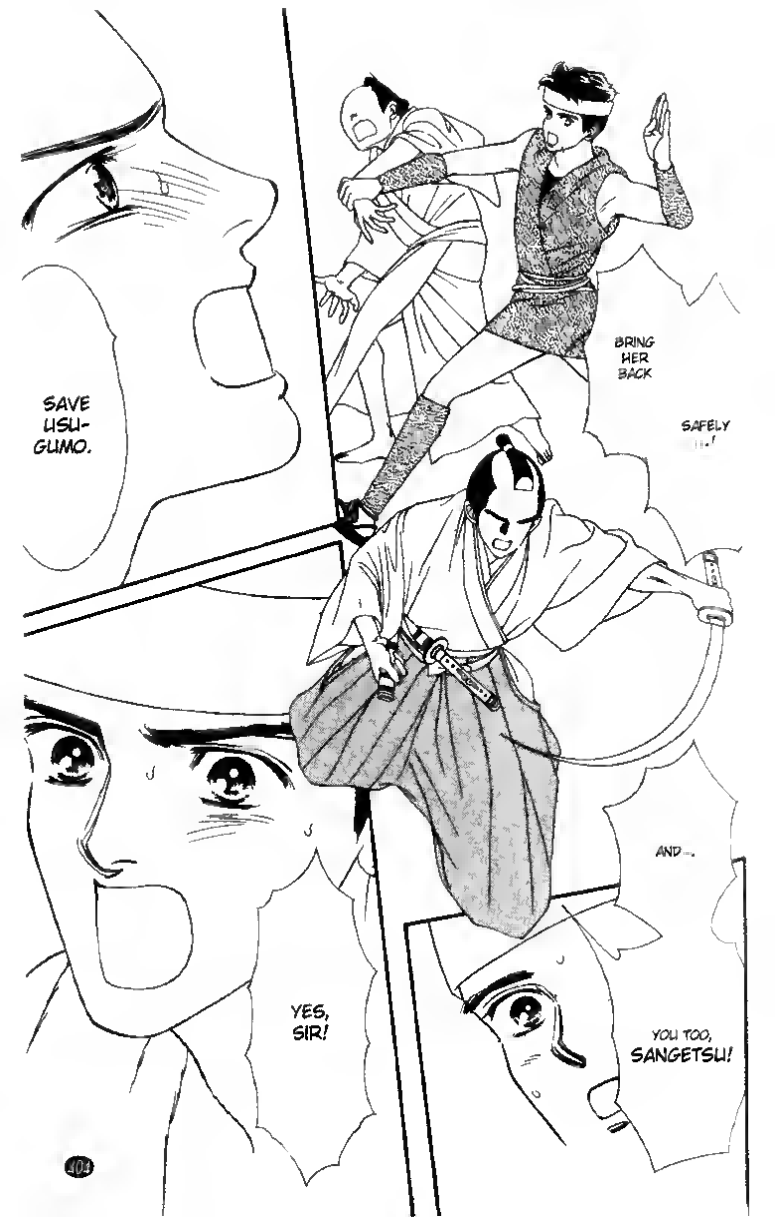

AOTO WILL TAKE OVER THE BATTLE HERE, SIR!
MUNEMASA-DONO, THE SAFETY OF THE SHOGUN IS IN YOUR HANDS!
JIROKICHI AND I WERE ASSIGNED TO PROTECT THE SHOGUN.
RIGHT NOW, JIROKICHI AND THE CASTLE GUARDS ARE HOLDING THEM OFF, BUT WE NEED SOMEONE WITH YOUR AUTHORITY IN CHARGE
SANGETSU...


SAVE USU-GUMO.
BRING HER BACK
SAFELY !!
AND—
YES, SIR!
YOU TOO, SANGETSU!

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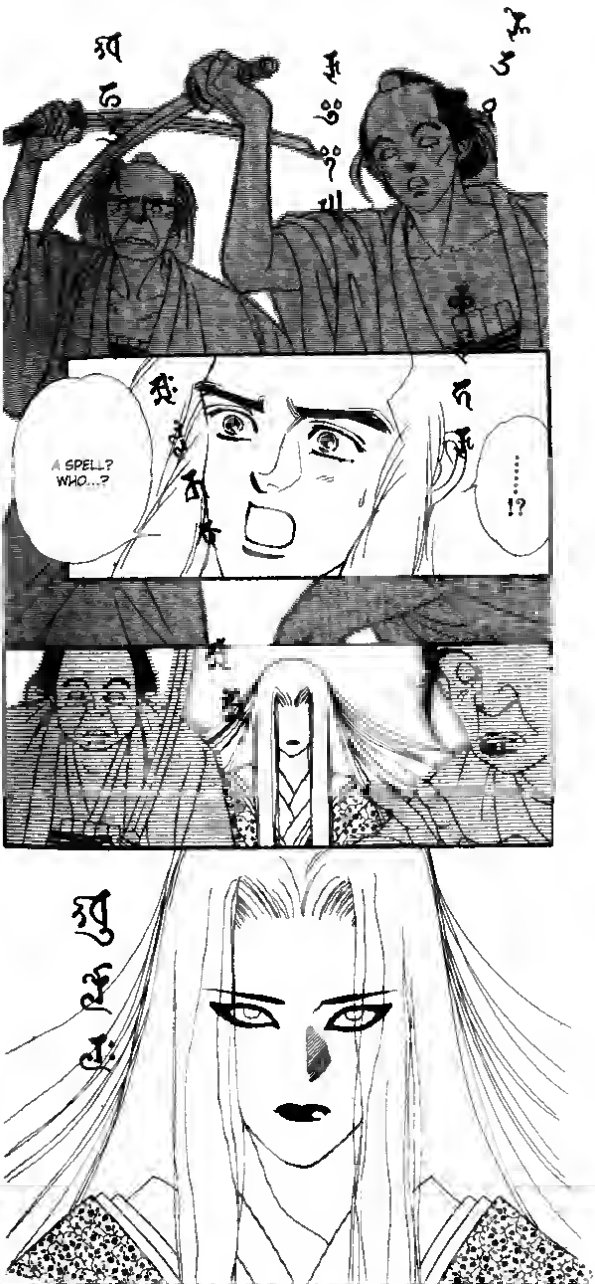
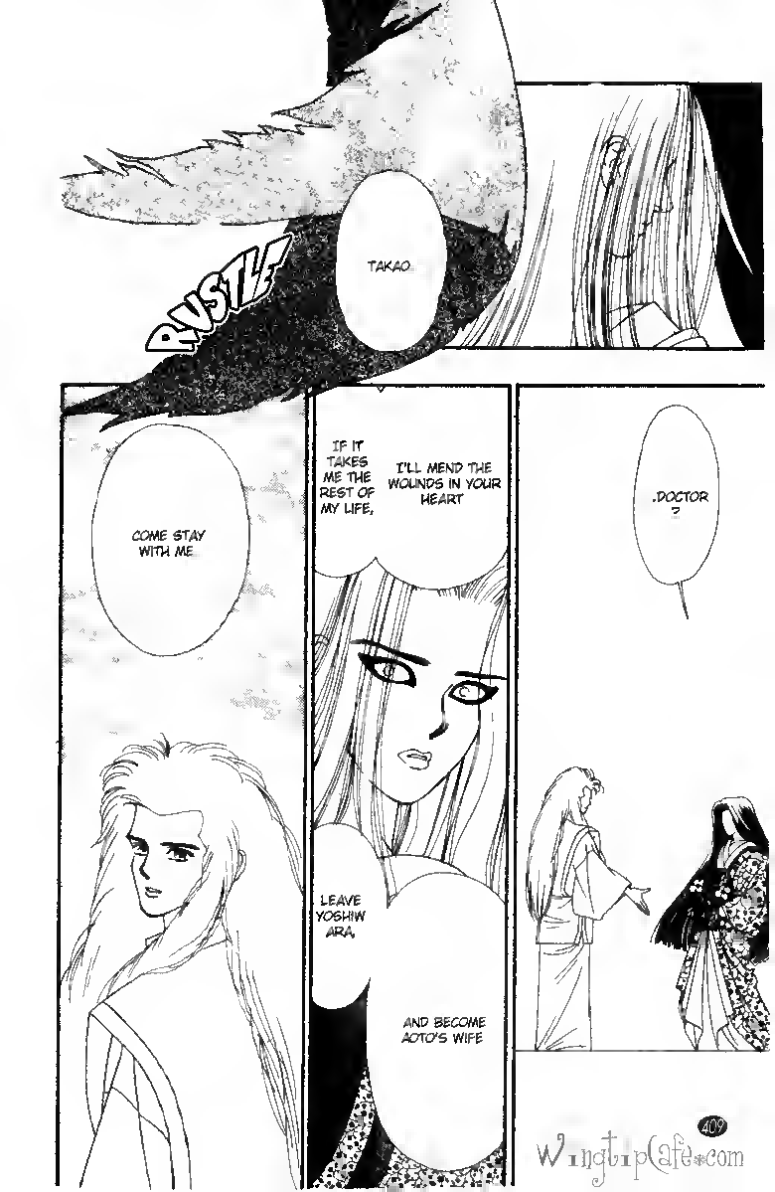

A SPELL? WHO...?
.....!?

TAKAO!
I NEVER WANTED YOU TO SEE ME LIKE THIS.
THIS IS MY TRUE FORM.
TAKAO?
HOPEFULLY THIS'LL BE THE LAST TIME THAT WE'LL MEET. I'LL DESTROY SUZAKU TO REDEEM MYSELF...
AND WILL TROUBLE YOU NO MORE



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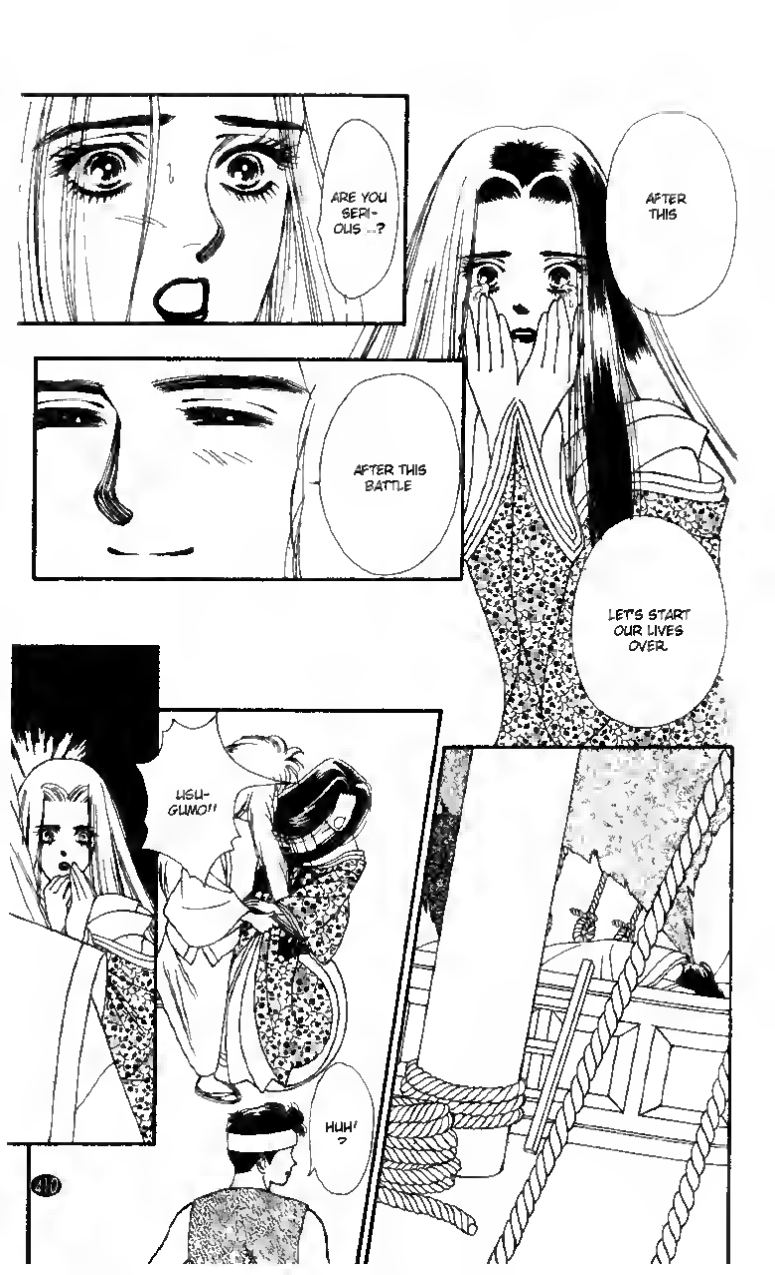
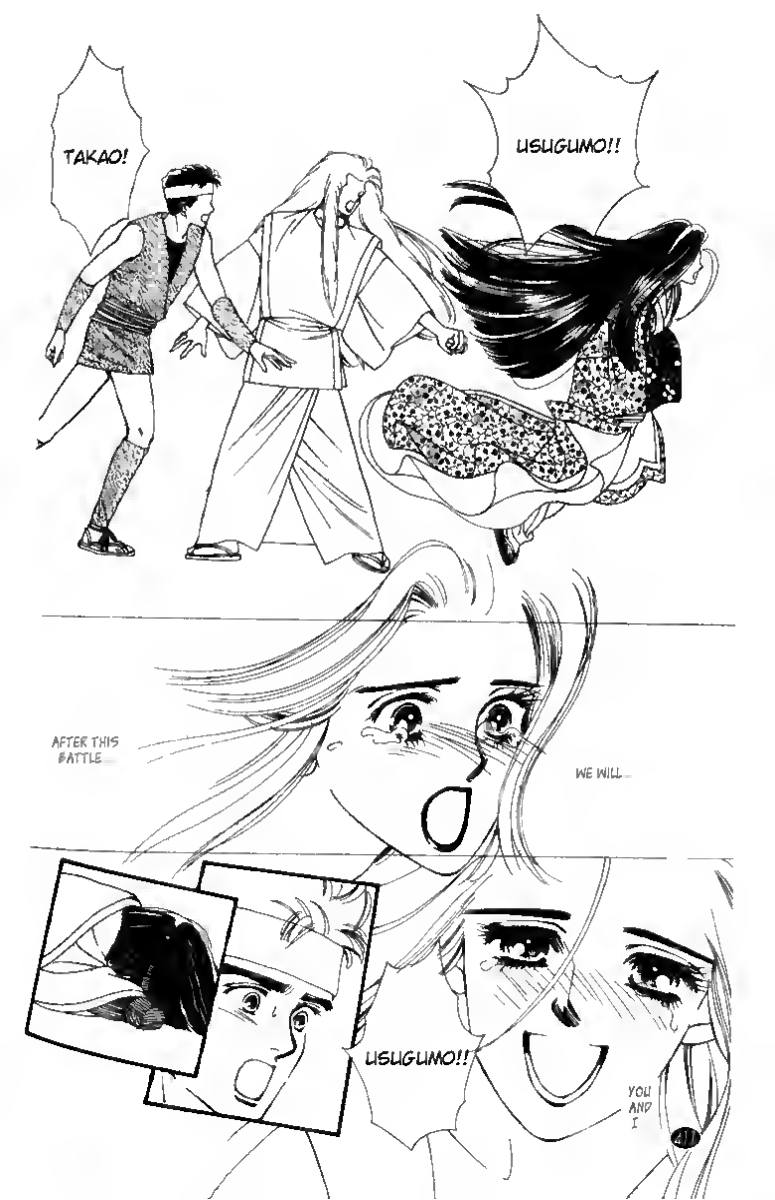

ARE YOU SERI-OUS ...?
AFTER THIS
AFTER THIS BATTLE
LET'S START OUR LIVES OVER
LISU-GUMO!!
HUH!?


TAKAO!
USUGUMO!!
AFTER THIS BATTLE...
WE WILL...
USUGUMO!!
YOU AND I

BOTH OF US
WE WILL BE
HAPPY TOGETHER
USUGUMO
TAKAO,
NO!
Stab
BOOM
IT'S A
TRAP!!

Fall
Fall
Fall

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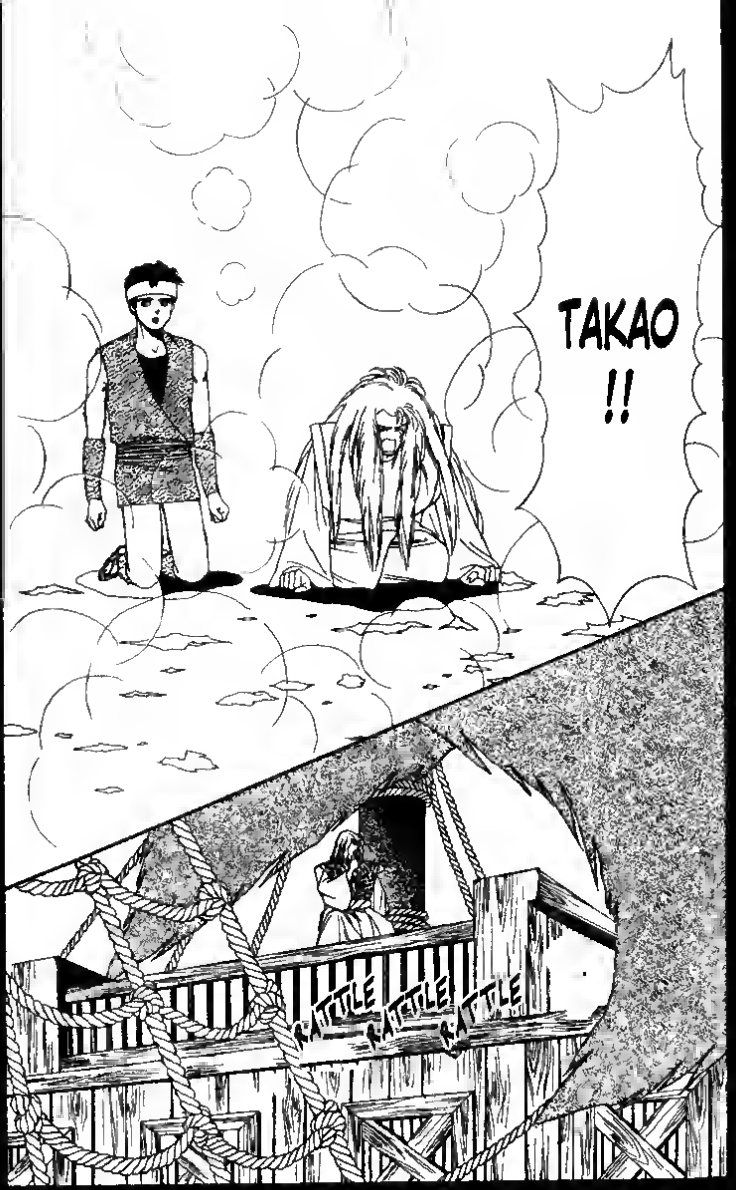
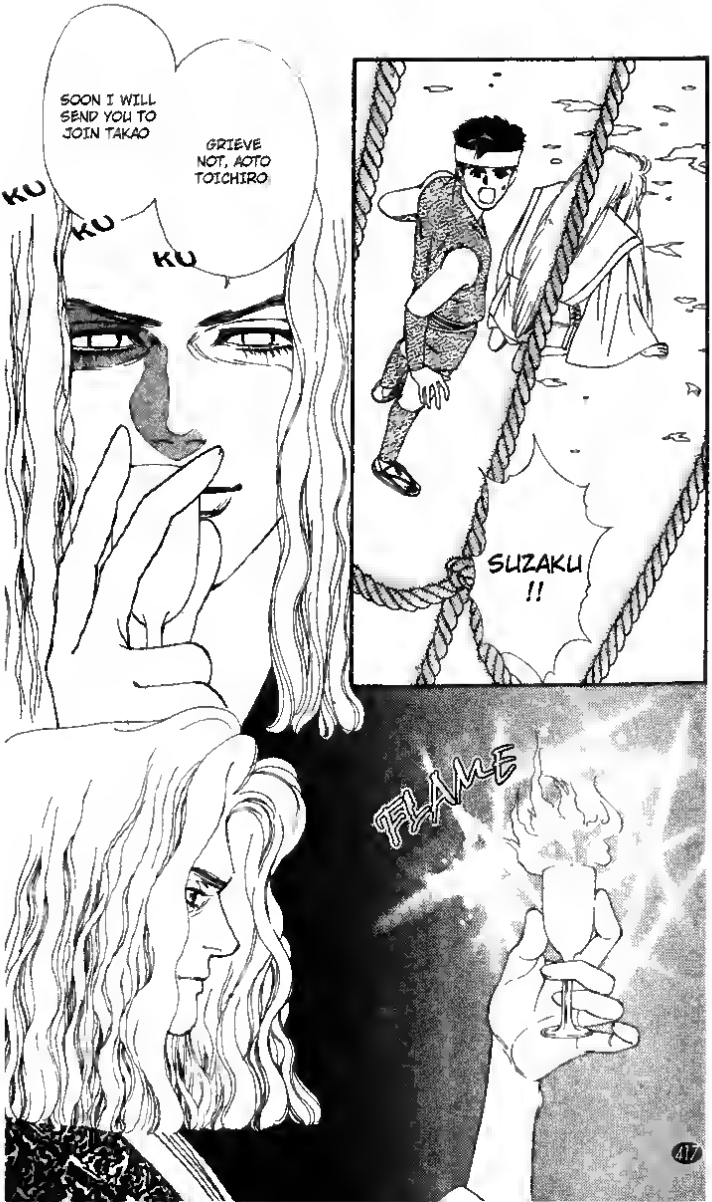

TAKAO
!!
KATTLE
KATTLE
KATTLE


SOON I WILL SEND YOU TO JOIN TAKAO
GRIEVE NOT, AOTO TOICHIRO
KU
KU
KU
SUZAKU !!
FLAME

SOAR
HA
SHUTTING OUT THE CHANGING WORLD, PRETENDING TO BE THE ONLY PILLAR IN THE VAST OCEAN,
SOAR
HA
HA
THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY ARE ALL IGNORANT AND FOOLISH.
THEY DON'T DESERVE TO BE HAPPILY IN LOVE.
SOAR
TO HELL WITH ALL OF YOU!

FLAME

FLAME

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FOOL!
DOCTOR !!
UGH ...
SAN... GE...
KILL... S UZAKU...
FALL

THUD
KOTETSU,
SANGE TSU!!
DOCTOR
UNTIE THE BOMBS FROM THEIR BODIES AND GET THEM OFF THE SHIP!
HE'S STILL ALIVE BUT HE NEEDS IMMEDIATE CARE

...ALL RIGHT...
I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE
SUZAKU!
SUZAKU!
SUZAKU!

UNFORGIVABLE!
COUGH
COUGH

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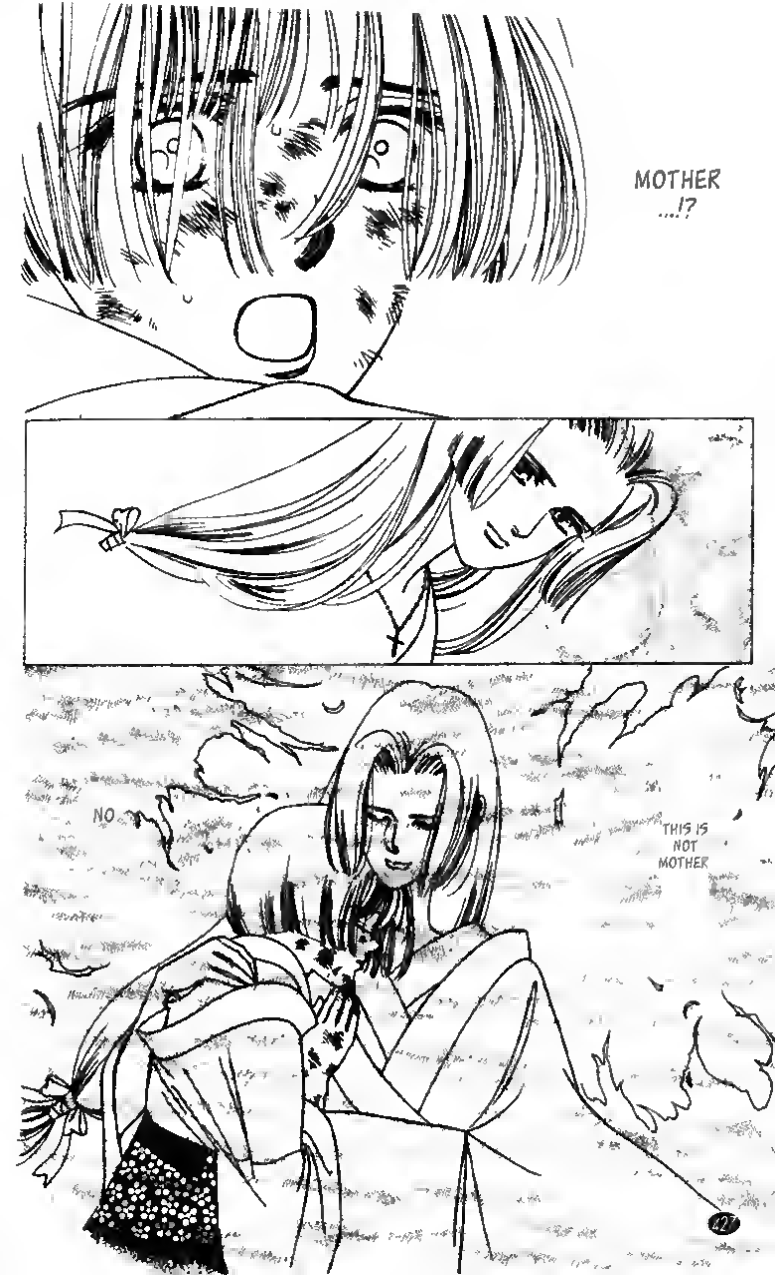
USUGUMO.
GET UP NOW.
Cough
AND FOLLOW ME.


MOTHER ...!?
NO
THIS IS NOT MOTHER

USUGUMO

PLEASE SAVE THEM..

MY HUSBAND AND SON.

PLEASE SAVE THEM..

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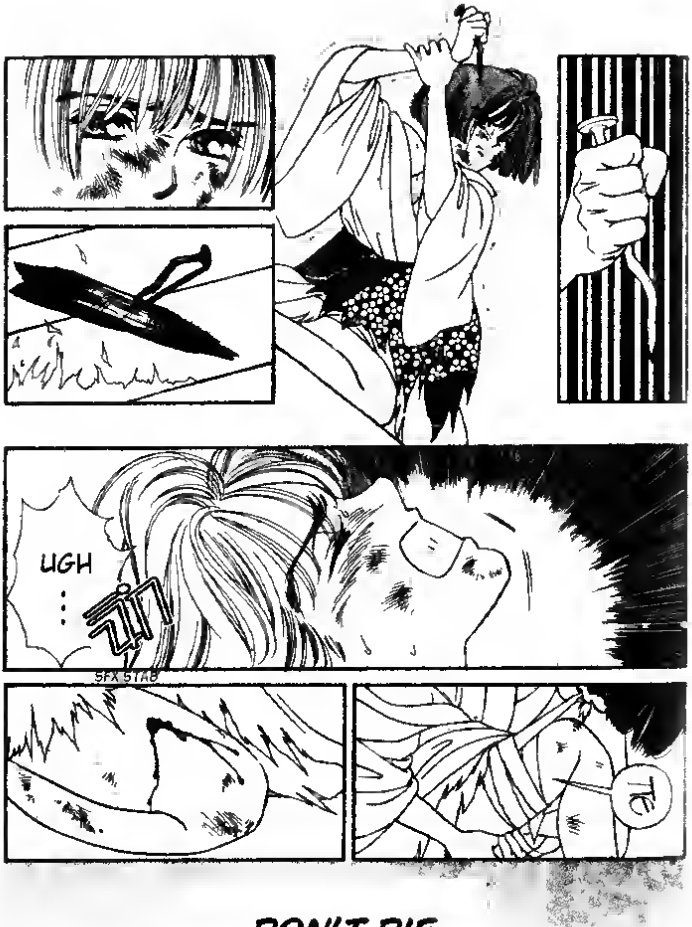
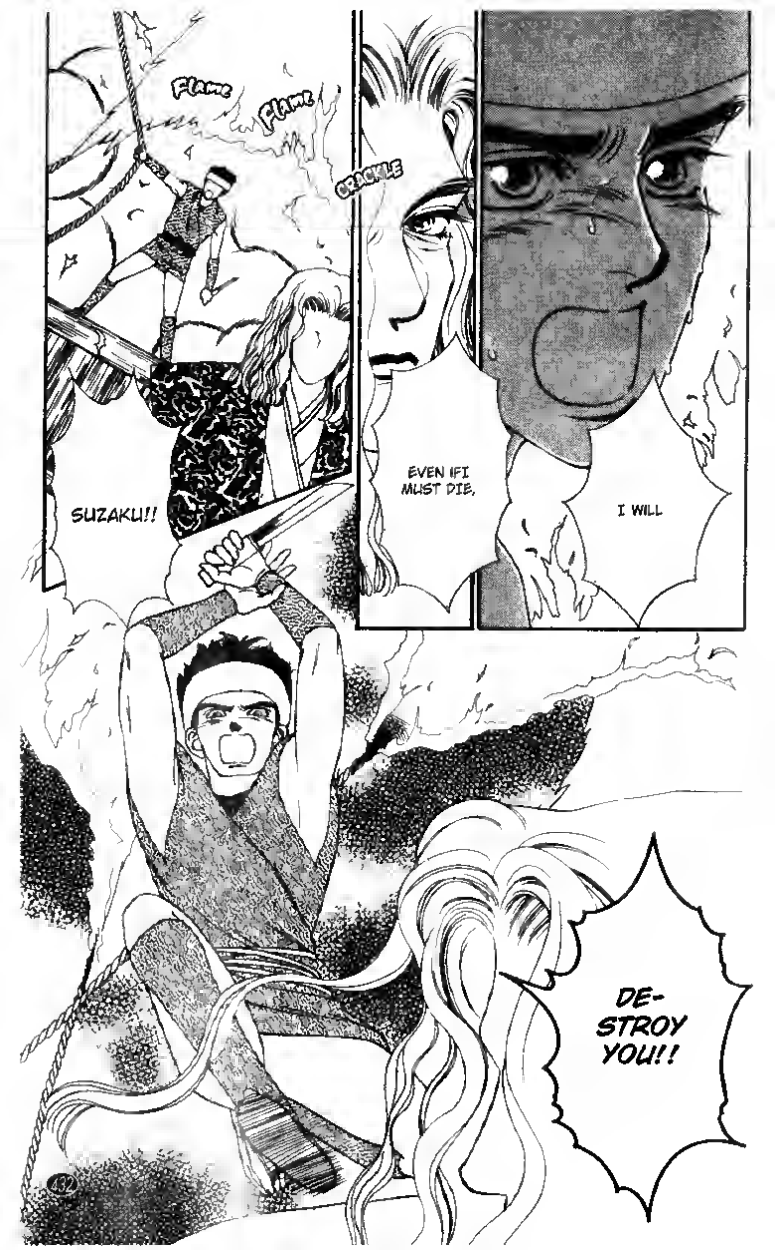
AH ..
WAIT...!!
YOU ARE...!!
—CAN I REALLY SAVE THEM
KIKUNOSUKE AND SUZAKU?



DON'T DIE
!!

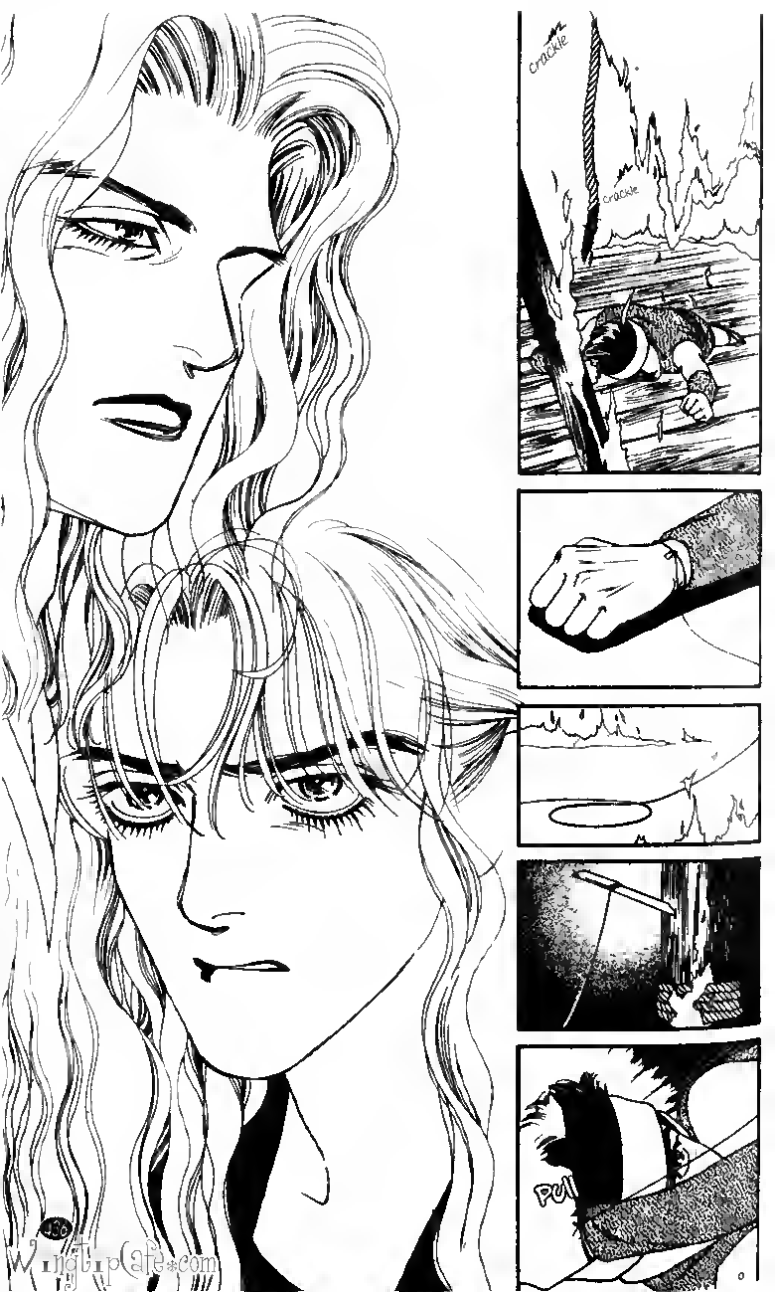
DON'T DIE, KIKUNOSUKE
SAN-GETSU
BOTH
OF YOU


FLAME
FLAME
CRACKLE
SUZAKU!!
EVEN IF I MUST DIE,
I WILL
DE-STROY YOU!!

FL QA
ASH
STAB
Thud
Step
SANGETSU.
COME TASTE YOUR PUNISHMENT FOR BETRAYING ME

STAB
DIE, SAN-GETSU !!

...UGH !?
SUZAKU ...!!
Boom



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CATCH
SUZAKU.
PREPARE TO DIE!!

FATHER!!
KIKUNO SUKE!!

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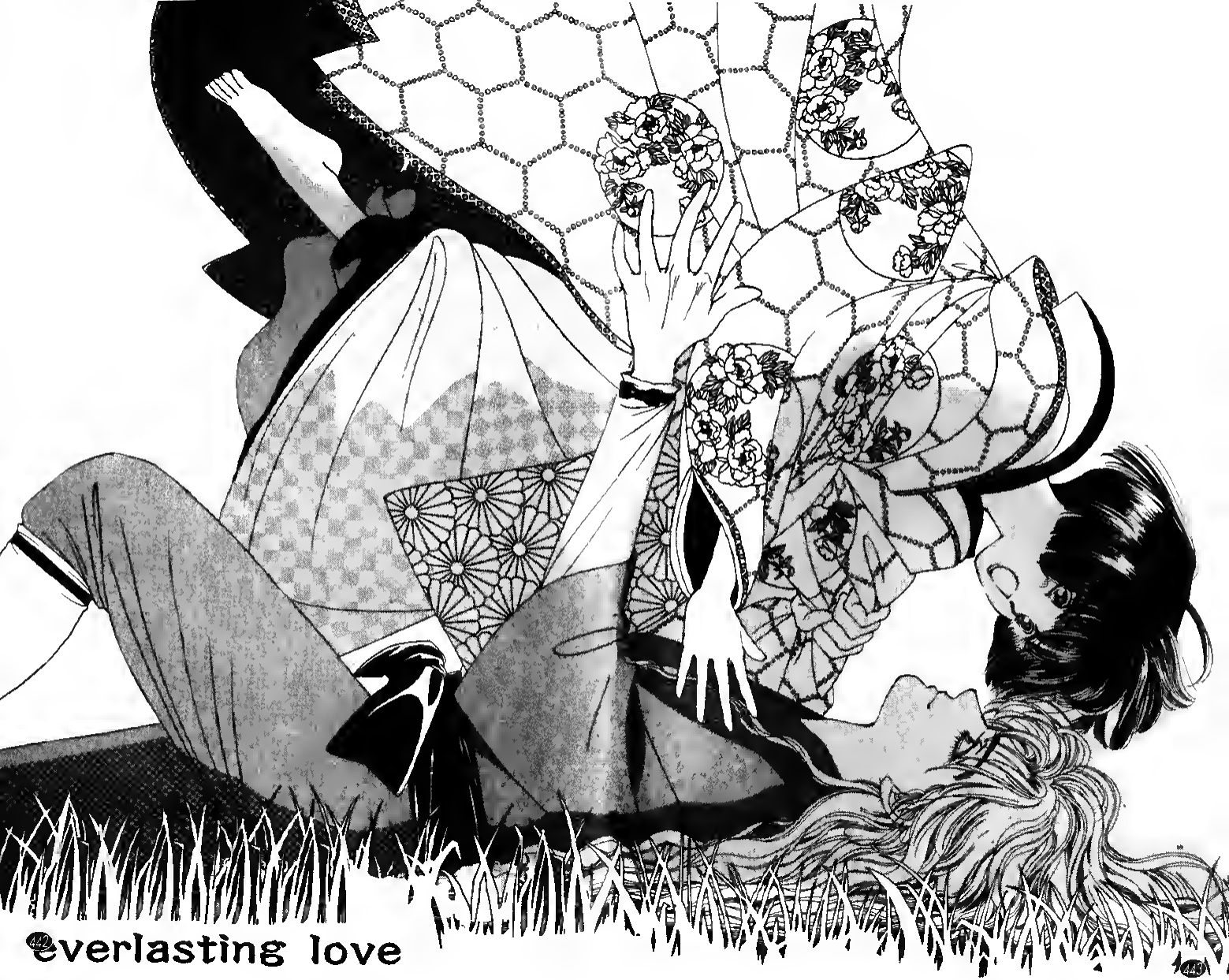
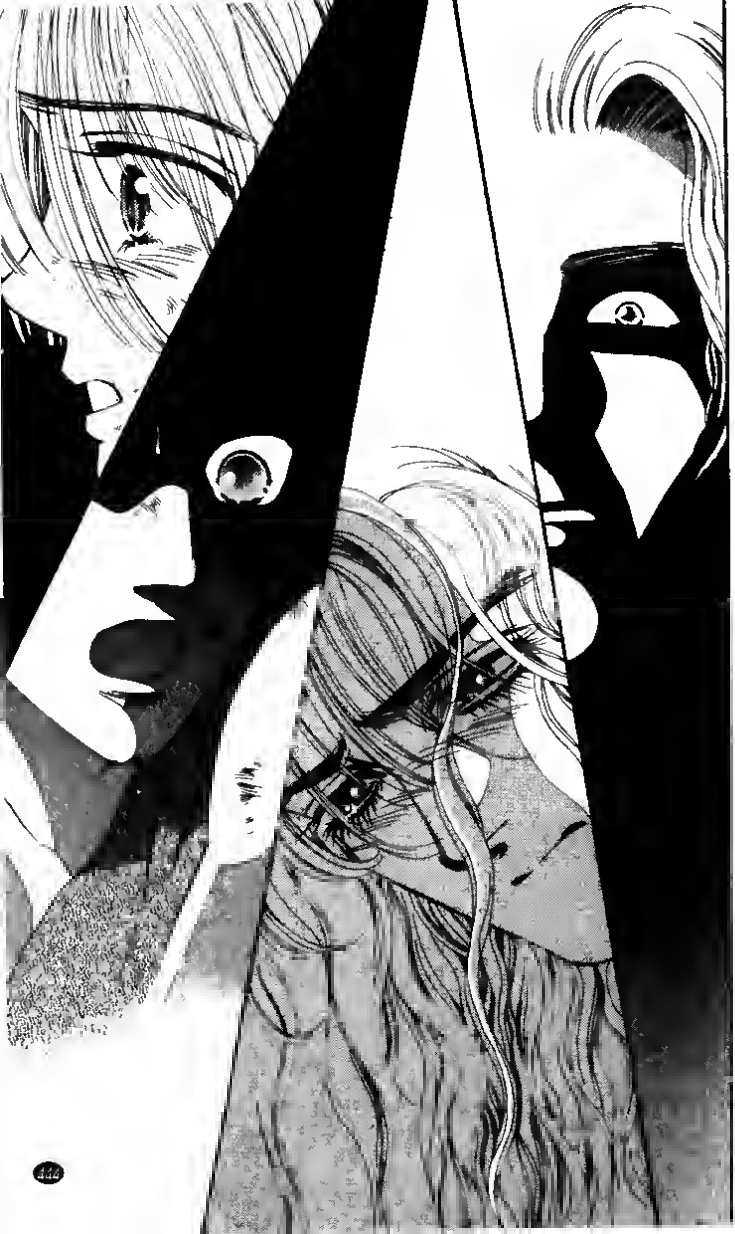
DIE, SUZAKU !!
FATHER !!
Hab


everlasting love



Release
Drip
drip
drip
AHH
...
fall
KIKU-
NOSUKE
!!

...KIKU-NOSUKE
WHY ...?
FATHER..

...usu-
GUMO!

WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT!
...USE THIS SWORD
THUD
STAB.... ME--
TILL IT IMPALES SUZAKU!

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KIKU
...
USUGUMO
...
PLEASE HELP THEM BOTH
YES, DO IT_!

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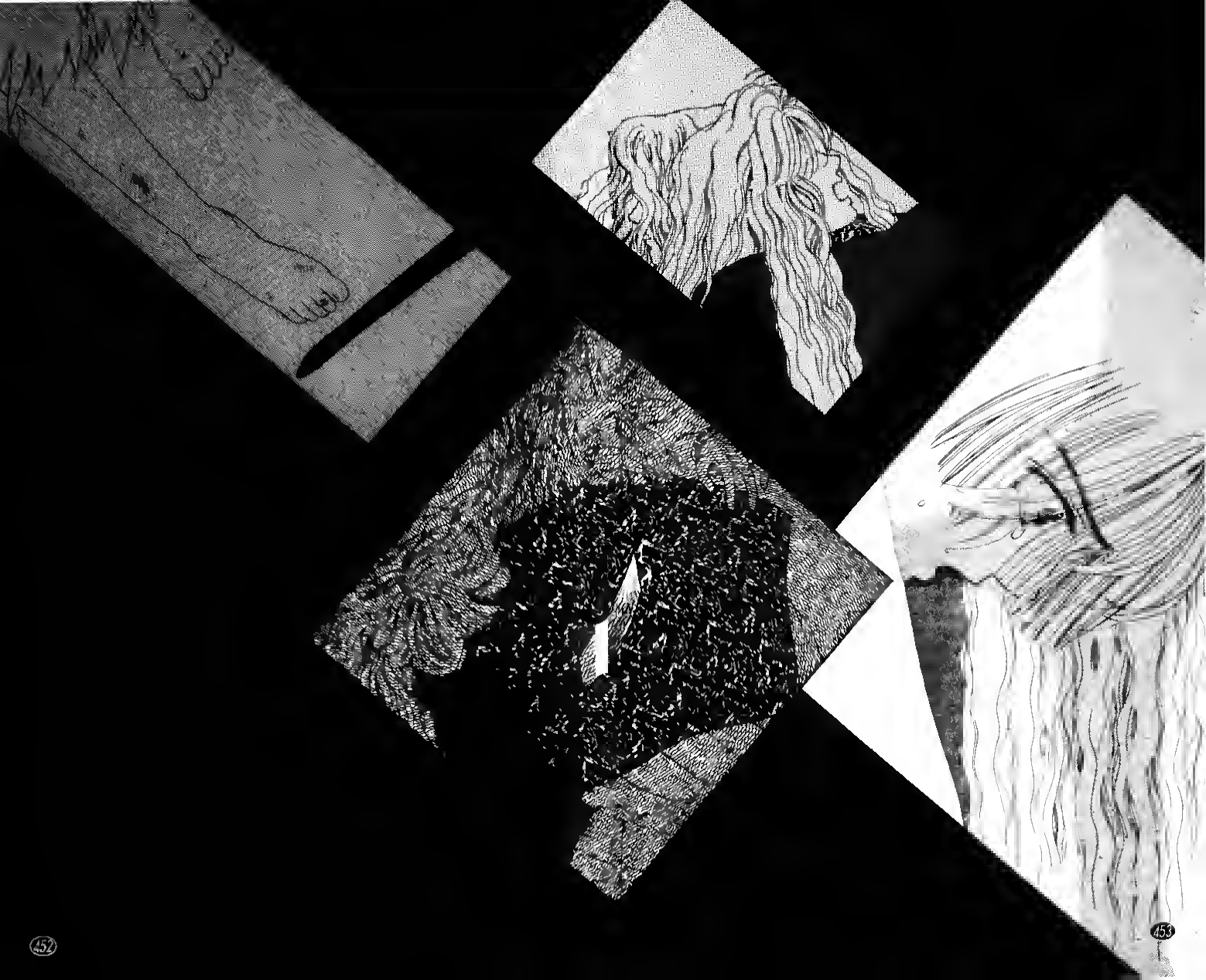
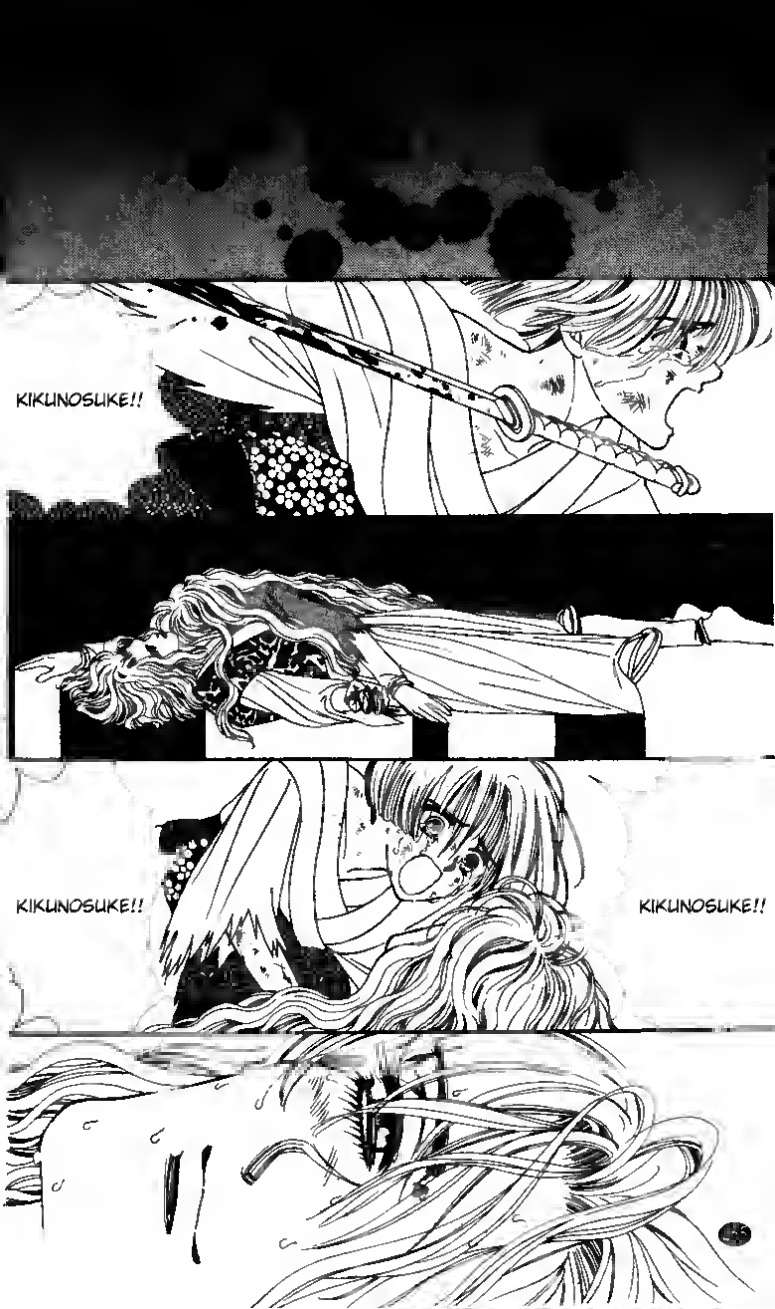



KIKUNOSUKE!!
KIKUNOSUKE!!
KIKUNOSUKE!!

TH-
...THANK ... YOU...
NOW...
KIKU-NOSUKE!
NO!
NO ...
AND I
NOW USUGUMO
WILL BECOME ONE
KIKU-NOSUKE !!

SFX FALL FALL
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, USUGUMO!
WATCH OUT!
USU-GUMO !
NOW!
KIKU-NOSUKE !!
DON'T DIE !!

SPLASH

One of the end cards of an Edo irohakaruta* deck says

The dream of Kyou,

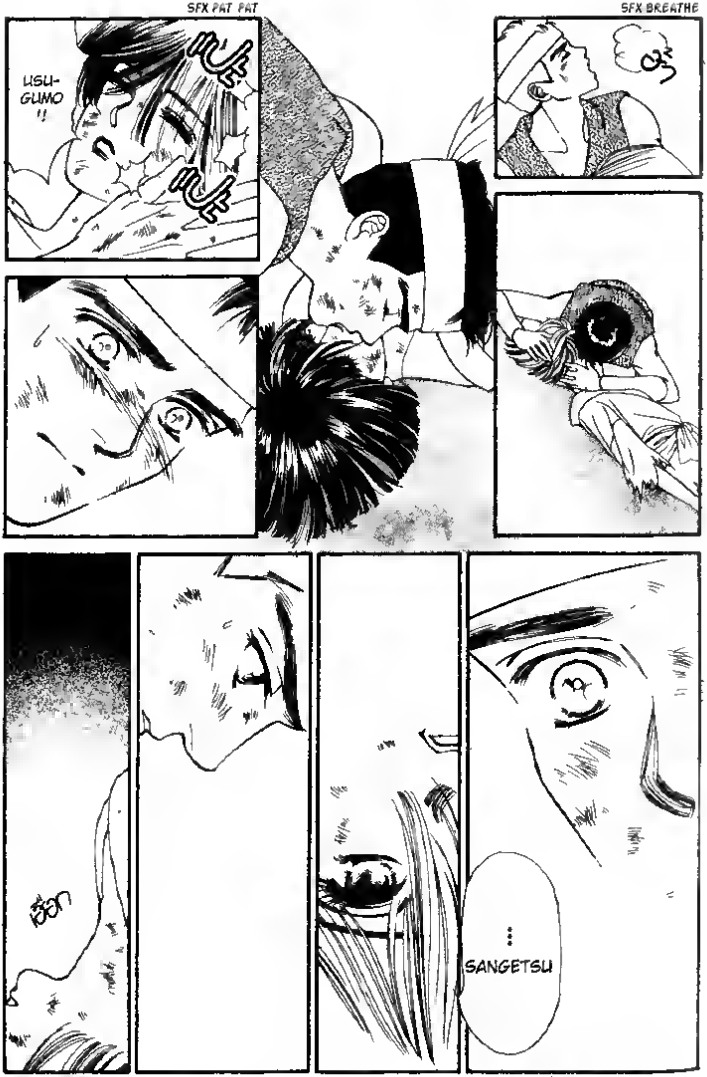
The dream of Osaka**.

The dream of today is not the dream of the world. The dream of our meeting is not the dream of our parting.

(T/E * EDO IEOBEKEGUTE = E KIED OF JEPEESE PLAYIED CEEDS. EACH CEED COETEIES DIFFEEET PROV-EEB WITH ILLUSTEATED PICTURE. TEE GAME IS PLAYED BY MATCEING EACE PROVEEE WITE TEE KENJI OF TEE JEPENESE SYLLABEEY.

** E PROVEED MEANIEDS THE EEGEET OEE FEELS EFTER WAKIED UP EED FOUED TEET ELL TEE BOOD THINGS HAPPENED WAS JUST E DEEAM, OE EXPEESSING THE FEELING OF NEVER WANTING THE DEEAM TO EED.)

ZAA
USUGUMO?
USUGUMO !!
USUGUMO!!



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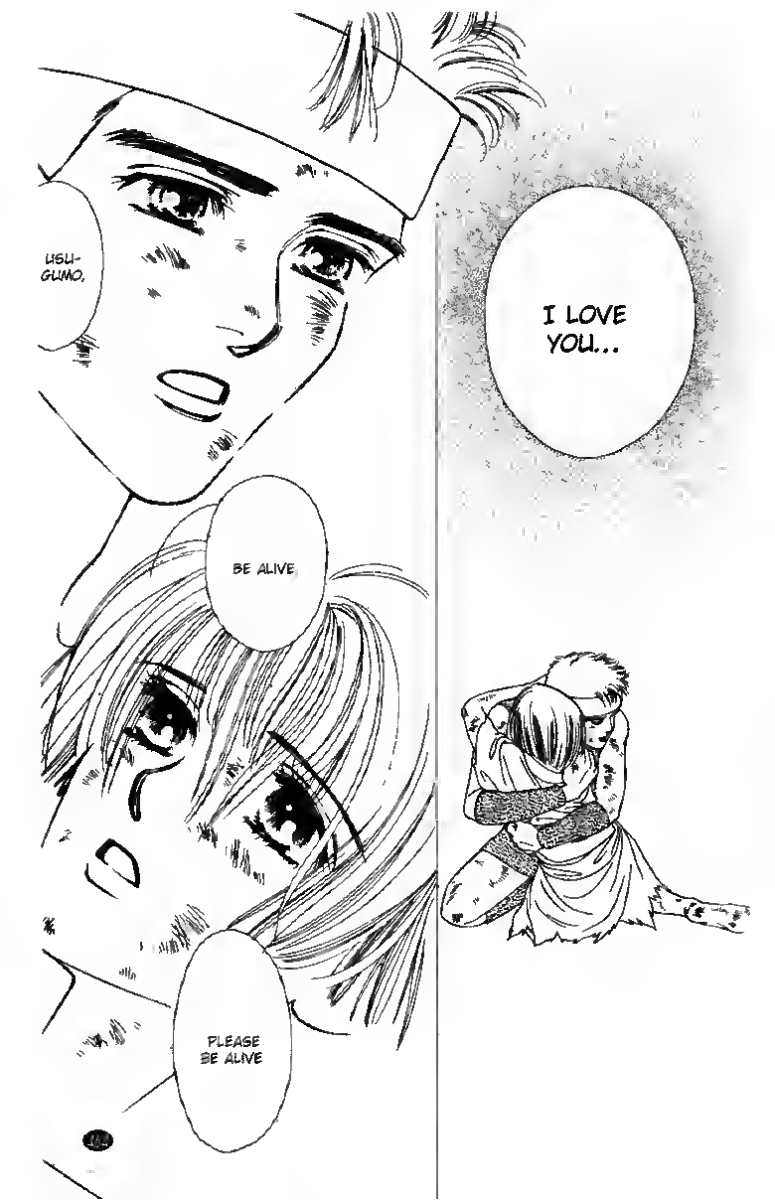
HISU-
GUMO.
I LOVE
YOU...
BE ALIVE
PLEASE
BE ALIVE

After that,

the legend of the adult Netsumikoso Jirokichi became widely-famous among the following generations

Munemasa returned to Kishuu and dedicated himself to serve the people. He was regarded as one of the great rulers of the era

The modern-medicine doctor, Aoto Toichiro, tended Shogun Yoshimune's illness until the last days of his life.

As for Sangetsu and Usugumo, no one ever heard of them again.

However, rumors say they were seen on a large ship sailing out of Sagami bay toward the grand ocean on a fine summer morning.

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Dear readers, thank you for staying with us until the end. Our story concludes with this chapter.
Yet still
Even today Edo never sleeps.
The bell chiming the hours,
the shouting calls from the
the footsteps of page boys running along the street

The sky so bright and blue
IT'S HANAOKA OF MIURA BROTHEL AND HER ENTOURAGE.
OH!
THERE SHE IS THERE SHE IS!

WOW!
GODS IN HEAVEN,
INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL
AS IF SHE'S NOT FROM THIS WORLD.
SINCE USUGUMO AND TAKAO ABRUPTLY DISAPPEARED, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN SUCH EXQUISITE BEAUTY.
THE DARK ERA HAS ENDED. LIGHT HAS RETURNED TO YOSHIWARA AT LAST

THE MORE I LOOK, THE MORE I THINK SHE SOMEHOW RESEMBLES USUGUMO
NONESENSE SHE'S NOTHING COMPARED TO USUGUMO
WHAT? HANAOKA IS GORGEOUS TOO!
Meow
AWW.
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MOTHER?

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FROM TODAY ON
LET'S SEE...
I'LL KEEP YOU WITH ME
PEOPLE SAID THAT USUGUMO-OIRAN WHO WAS BORN AND RAISED IN YOSHIWARA AND LOVED BY ALL IN EDO
ONCE HAD A CAT NAMED "KOTETSU."
SHALL I NAME YOU
"KOTETSU"
AFTER THE CAT OF THE LEGENDARY USUGUMO?

Vivid threads of fate and destiny
weaving delightful stories of love and adventure will spin yet again
for eternity, and forever.
- THE END -

Edo Never Sleeps is a fine story. It's exciting and shows the best in human nature. Except for a few historical inaccuracies here and there, it's quite detailed and reveals the Japanese "willow world", the world of the courtesans quite well. I only wish that I could read the original language so that I would know what was inevitably lost in translation.

- Xerona -

What I enjoyed most was the sheer audacity of the mangaka. A teen girl of 15 becomes the "light of Yoshiwara," a famed oiran, is acknowledged a daughter of the shogun and, LOL, becomes regeant for the ailing ruler of Japan (This after winning the heart of a shinobi, clearing him of a murder charge and stopping a coup within the bafuku.) Then she solves a kidnapping and foils the twisted schemes of one of the most chilling manga villains I've ever seen. And all this within 32 chapters. All done with a minimum of dialogue. Magnificent!

- Daffyd ap Morgen -

I really enjoy working on Edo never sleep. Thank you P'Chihaya for introducing me this manga, for teaching me how to do scanslation, and for lending her character's name for my alias. 5555

- Akanee -

True I like this manga very much but i really hate the end of it. kiku dead because of that foolish Sangetsu. why kiku supposed to die why it wasn't Sangetsu :'(

- Dlori -

Whew! It is a LONG project. Thank you so much everyone! We'd never have finished it without you ^_^/

When I first read the first few chapters, I thought "wow! Finally Honda-sensei wrote the hero I can really like." But suddenly Sangetsu snatched Usugumo from right under Kiku-chan nose! I keep wondering if Honda-sensei suddenly changed the hero in the middle of the story =_=" Neeway, it was a fun ride and I learned a lot working on this project.

- Chihaya -

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